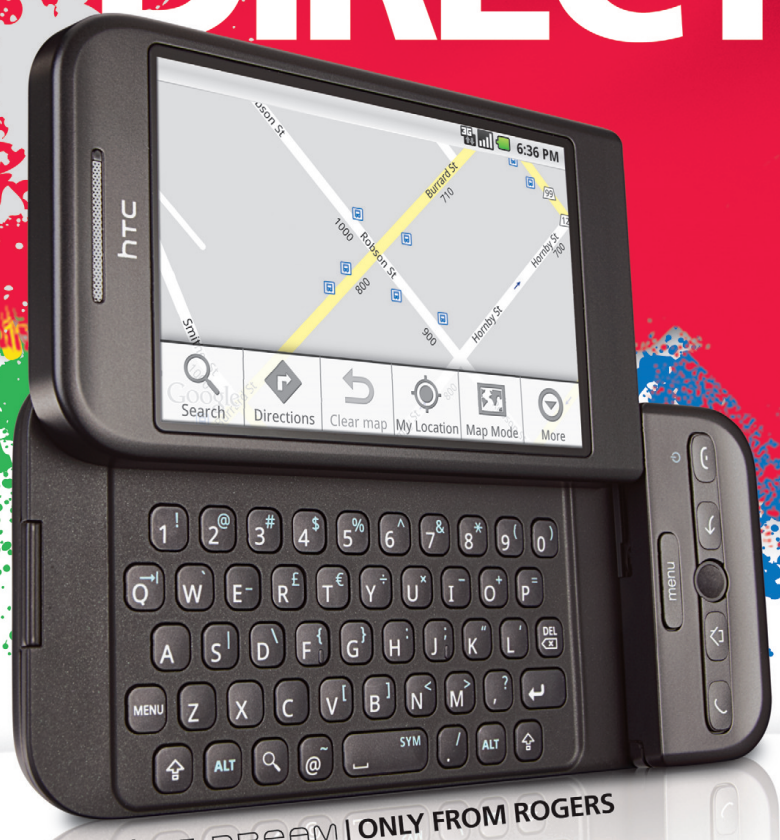
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FLAHERTY SAYS ECONOMY RECOVERING, PG 6

Sports pg 12

Penguins keep loose on day off



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Celebrity Buzz



Gosselins can't sell celebrity home

pg 22

Go embrace your democratic right

VOTING Today is the province's 38th general election as the gift of democracy is again bestowed on Nova Scotians.

Currently there are 21 elected members from the Progressive Conservative party, 20 from the NDP and nine from the Liberals. There is one independent (Ernie Fage in Cumberland North) and one vacant seat due to the passing earlier this year of Michael Baker.

By this evening those numbers will change. The polls are open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. with results pouring in immediately after.

METRO HALIFAX

MORE COVERAGE, PG 3

Sunny Side

Follow Metro's SunnySide initiative as we help you find the good news around Halifax and Canada.

On metronews.ca

- **Share your SunnySide thoughts on Twitter using #sunnyside**
- **See what other Metro readers are doing and saying about SunnySide**

Today

- **Babies teach children at local elementary school, pg 4**
- **Cycling cross country to raise awareness on poverty, pg 5**



New Moon

All this week, Metro Canada is giving you a look behind the scenes of New Moon, the newest film in the TWILIGHT series.
TODAY — We talk to Taylor Lautner about New Moon and his character, Jacob Black, pg 20
TOMORROW — An interview with director Chris Weitz
THURSDAY — An interview with actress Kristen Stewart
FRIDAY — An interview with actor Robert Pattinson



Time to vote Halifax

The leading candidates state why you should vote for their party

Darrell Dexter

NDP Leader

The NDP's balanced, practical plan will make life better for you and your family by creating new jobs, keeping emergency rooms open, taking the HST off home energy and ensuring more young people stay and build a life here in Nova Scotia.

Rodney MacDonald's record of mistakes speaks for itself. Emergency rooms are closing. Health care waits are getting longer. The Conservative-Liberal eight per cent HST on your power bill makes life less affordable.

The Conservatives wasted money on expensive vehicles for cabinet ministers, and big pay raises for staff.

Mr. MacDonald was the last premier in Canada to bring in a budget. Then he tried to hide the fact he was putting Nova Scotia even deeper in debt.

Let's not risk four more years of more of the same. It's time for a positive change.

The NDP will create the secure jobs the economy needs. We will help young people stay and put down roots here, with steps like a Graduate Retention Rebate of up to $15,000.

The NDP will keep emergency rooms open by covering hard-to-fill shifts and engaging communities in health care solutions.

We will use collaborative care and health prevention to reduce wait times. We will give seniors better choices and we live within our means.

It's the NDP's Better Deal for today's families.

You can help bring positive change to Nova Scotia. Vote today for genuine leadership: vote NDP.



Rodney MacDonald

Progressive Conservative Leader

When I was first elected premier in 2006, our government presented Nova Scotians with a comprehensive, four-year platform. In less than three years, we accomplished or set in motion the majority of those promises including:

- Reduced debt and improved bond ratings
- Reached record job numbers
- Introduced a heating cost rebate
- 2,000 km of new pavement
- 250 new police officers
- 500 km of new trails
- Lower tuition
- Family Pharmacare Plan
- New schools
- New nursing home beds
- More child care spaces
- Shorter health care wait times

We presented our government's eighth balanced budget — offering an economic action plan to stimulate the economy and produce, or maintain, 20,000 jobs, while protecting vital government programs, services and jobs.

The opposition chose to defeat these positive measures and force an election, delaying needed work around Nova Scotia and refusing to say what they would do differently.

A re-elected Progressive Conservative government will immediately pass this budget and get Nova Scotia's economy moving forward. The economy has been our priority from Day 1 and it remains our priority. Without a prosperous economy, the enviable quality of life in our province will suffer.

Nova Scotians have a clear choice: support the risky spending habits and the hidden agenda of the NDP in these tough economic times, or support the proven record of the Progressive Conservative Party — the only party with a clear plan to create good jobs, manage our finances and grow our economy.

Today, I ask for your support.



Stephen McNeil

Liberal Leader

I have been speaking with Nova Scotians and listening as they share their concerns for the future. Nova Scotians have told me the biggest concern is the economy.

They are worried about their jobs and the lack of opportunities for their children.

The Liberal Plan addresses the economy because it's our number one concern.

That's why a Liberal government will reduce the small business tax and the tax on gas.

We will extend micro-credit to small business.

By supporting those who have invested in Nova Scotia, we will be maintaining and creating jobs. It will provide an immediate benefit to the economy and still make sense when this downturn is over.

These are realistic constructive solutions for the problems we face and they will grow the economy.

And we are the only party talking about growing the economy.

Our policies are practical, prudent and make sense now and in the future.

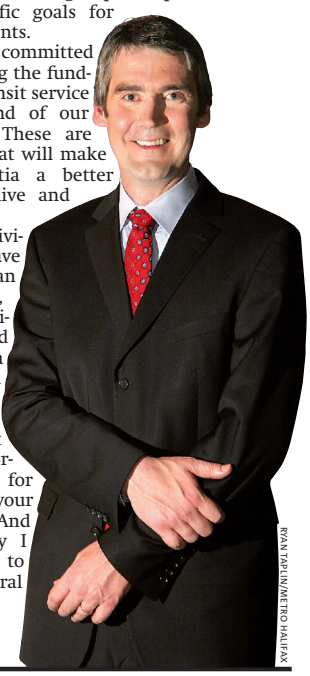
Our goal is to provide a doctor for every family, by paying the medical school tuition for 100 doctors who will, in turn, work in underserviced areas of the province.

We will institute a School Grants Program to help schools target specific problems or attain specific goals for their students.

We are committed to doubling the funding for transit service by the end of our mandate. These are policies that will make Nova Scotia a better place to live and work.

I am privileged to have received an education, run a business and raised a family in Nova Scotia.

I want those opportunities for you and your children. And that's why I ask you to vote Liberal today.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

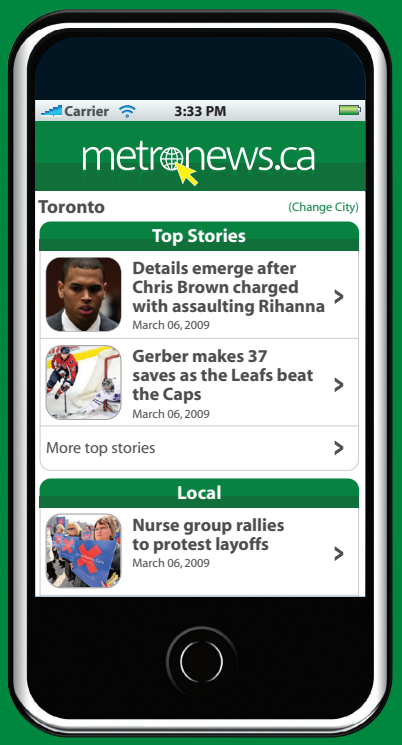
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KEEPING YOU UPDATED

Dal hosting event on homeless youth
Dalhousie University is hosting a Café Scientifique event on homeless youth tomorrow from 6 to 8 p.m. at Just Us Café on Spring Garden Road.
Hosting the event is Jean Hughes from Dalhousie's School of Nursing and Jef Karabanow from the university's School of Social Work. METRO HALIFAX

Local



Hundreds of species found

More than 850 species were discovered during a 24-hour BioBlitz of the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area last Friday and Saturday. The event put on by Saint Mary's University saw more than 90 scientists identify 858 different species, including three reptiles, nine different types of fishes, 11 amphibians and 324 distinct species of insects. METRO HALIFAX

Races down to the wire

Parties battle it out to claim supremacy in HRM area

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

As Election Day strikes in Nova Scotia today party sources say about a half dozen of the 18 ridings in the Halifax Regional Municipality are tightly contested and could change hands.

Yesterday the Liberals brought out the big guns in hockey legend and federal MP Ken Dryden to campaign with Diana Whalen in Clayton Park. Whalen beat NDP candidate Linda Power by less than 400 votes last election and desperately wants to hold onto that seat. Power is again running for the NDP.

Bedford-Birch Cove is perhaps the toughest dogfight. Progressive Conservative cabinet minister Len Goucher is trying to hold on against Liberal Kelly Regan, wife of federal MP Geoff Regan.

Both parties have invested huge amounts of resources into winning the riding.

The Liberals are hoping to steal at least one current NDP seat between Dartmouth North and Dartmouth East, party sources said yesterday. To do the job they've dispatched two city councillors — Jim Smith in Dartmouth North and Andrew Younger in Dartmouth East.

Given the strong tide of NDP support it will be tough to unseat either incumbent. But of the two, Younger likely has the best shot.

If the Liberals can steal one Dartmouth seat, take down Goucher in Bedford and hold on everywhere else in HRM, Liberal sources say, they would be happy.

Meanwhile the NDP are looking to take down two cabinet ministers — Barry Barnet in Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville and Bill Dooks in Eastern Shore.

One campaign member said they've also got a couple Liberal seats within reach between Whalen in Clayton Park and perhaps Keith Colwell in Preston.

For the Tories there is some hope that Progressive Conservative candidate Ted Larsen can take down the NDP's Leonard Preyra in Halifax Atlantic. But Preyra managed to beat a very formidable opponent in 2006 in Bill Black, so NDP support in the area may be too strong to overcome.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Federal Liberal MP Ken Dryden campaigns with MLA Diana Whalen, second from left, as they speak to Christine McKenna and other shoppers at the Clayton Park Sobeys yesterday.



To stop NDP, vote Liberal: McNeil

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

ELECTION Forget Rodney MacDonald — if Tory voters want to make an impact in the provincial election the Liberals say vote for them.

"We've seen in more recent days the (Progressive) Conservatives' fortunes changing," Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said. "We know that conservative voters are looking for new options. We're encouraging them to come and join us."

"There's no doubt in anyone's mind that we are the alternative to the (NDP). We are the ones who are competing with them in almost every riding, not the Conservatives."
Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil

McNeil said Tory support is waning and he worries many of their supporters will stay home on Election Day. McNeil hopes to gain their votes by selling his party as the only ones capable of stopping the NDP. He also believes his promise to cut the small business tax will appeal to fiscally conservative Nova Scotians.

"There's no doubt in anyone's mind that we are the alternative to the (NDP)," McNeil said. "We are the ones who are competing with them in almost every riding, not the Conservatives."

Tory spokesman Jordi Morgan said McNeil's comments were silly and mirrored those of former federal Liberal leader Paul Martin when he was trying to avoid defeat. Morgan called McNeil's statements "a last minute desperate attempt to get voters."

"He should be more worried about the lag in his support than trying to get our supporters," Morgan said.

Teen charged with attempted murder

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
kristen.lipscombe@metronews.ca

CRIME Halifax Regional Police have arrested a 16-year-old male after a stabbing in Bedford one week ago that sent a man to hospital in serious condition.

Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said yesterday officers took the suspect into custody at his Halifax home Friday night.

"In speaking with witnesses, (the investigators) were able to identify a suspect," he said.

The incident occurred outside a shopping complex at 930 Bedford Highway last Tuesday night.

Police said a 20-year-old man was in his car outside a Tim Hortons when a group of people, including the suspect, showed up in another vehicle just after 9:30 p.m. The suspect then allegedly started a staring contest with the victim, which quickly escalated into the stabbing, police said.

Chris Hansen, spokeswoman for the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service, said the teenager was initially supposed to be in Halifax youth court yesterday for a show cause hearing on charges of attempted murder, robbery and possession of a weapon. But she said the matter would probably be rescheduled for later this week.

News in brief

ROBBERY Halifax Regional Police say an 18-year-old male reported being robbed and assaulted by three teenagers yesterday afternoon. According to police the alleged incident took place at 38 Caledonia Rd. in Dartmouth. The victim said his wallet was stolen, but he wasn't injured and no weapons were used in the assault. The suspects are described as males, between the ages of 18 and 19, with two wearing hoodies and jeans and the third sporting a hoodie and red shorts. METRO HALIFAX

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Blogs It's Called Football welcomes Canadian keeper Pat Onstad to refute reports he has retired from international soccer and Hollywood Rants lists some classic booze-soaked cinema

Video Nova Scotians appear poised to elect the first NDP government east of Ontario at **metronews.ca/canada**

Cops at a loss explaining disturbance call

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
kristen.lipscombe@metronews.ca

Two men who were apparently involved in a confrontation Sunday evening on Federal Avenue aren't talking, a Halifax Regional Police spokesman says.

"We're not receiving a lot of co-operation from the people involved directly with the incident," Const. Brian Palmeter said yesterday of the disturbance police were called to at about 5:20 p.m.

"We're not receiving a lot of co-operation from the people involved directly with the incident."
Const. Brian Palmeter

He said the two men allegedly involved in an argument on the 3300 block of Federal Avenue weren't around when officers arrived on scene, adding one of them likely took off in a car.

Someone in the Halifax neighbourhood "claims to have heard shots," Palmeter said, but added "we can't find any evidence" indicating a gun was used.

Windows were smashed out of a nearby home, but Palmeter said police don't know if that had anything to do with the confrontation.

"At this point, I don't know that we even have a criminal offence."

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Province's IB students win more than $3.6 million in scholarships
Students graduating from Nova Scotia's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program have won more than $3.6 million in post-secondary scholarships and bursaries, the province announced yesterday. More than 230 Grade 12 students received academic awards from entrance scholarships to an Ivy League scholarship. METRO HALIFAX

World's tiniest teachers honoured

Babies help teach kids about caring in empathy program

LESLEY PIKE
for Metro Halifax

SunnySide

The "littlest teachers in the world" were thanked yesterday afternoon during a ceremony at Inglis Street Elementary School in Halifax.

The teachers, clad in identical white T-shirts, crawled around on green blankets on the middle of the gym floor. Their parents looked on proudly and snapped photos while they played with toys during the event.

It was a celebration for the babies, who participated in the Roots of Empathy program during the 2008-09 year. The program brings babies into elementary and junior high school classes to teach students how to care for others.

"The core of the program is to teach them to be more empathic (and) to read the other person," said Susan Venn, the program's co-ordinator for HRM. "The baby teaches them to do that."

Karen Keats was at yesterday's celebration with her 10-month-old daughter, Sophie Williams. She and Sophie visited a Grade 3 class at Duc d'Anville Elementary School in Clayton Park this past school year.

Sophie sat on Keats' lap while she talked about her experiences with the program. They first entered the classroom when Sophie was six weeks old. While some of the students were a little standoffish at first, Keats said they all became enthralled with their tiny teacher through the year.

"The second last time we were there they gave her a book of nursery rhymes and some kids made their own nursery rhymes about Sophie," she said. "It was so beautiful.

"I think for the students it really teaches them about caring for other people ... (and) other people's perspectives," Keats said, adding the students learn about child development.

The program has been spreading worldwide. It's established in New Zealand, the United States and the Isle of Man, according to the Roots of Empathy website.

Venn is hoping it will continue to spread in Nova Scotia. "Now we've blossomed and we're going to blossom in the Valley and the South Shore too," she said. "Hopefully (it will spread) everywhere."


RYAN TAPLIN / METRO HALIFAX

Ten-month-old Jascha Jager, bottom, and eight-month-old Madison Winfield play at the Inglis Street Elementary school during a Roots of Empathy baby celebration yesterday.

The big top will visit province despite animal groups' protest

CIRCUS The show will go on, the Natural Resources Department said yesterday of a travelling circus that's making its way through Nova Scotia.

Department representatives conducted an inspection of Cirque Estival during its stop Saturday in New Glasgow, along with a veterinarian from the Agriculture Department and an investigator with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Julie Towers, the department's director of wildlife, said the inspection team "identified a few things that they asked the circus to address, which they did right then and there," such as providing shade and privacy covers for some animals.

"In some cases, it's documentation that the circus is to gather and provide back to us," Towers said. "There will also be a followup inspection."

For now, Cirque Estival is allowed to continue its tour across the province, she said.

The Nova Scotia SPCA initially complained to the province about the circus using a 45-year-old elephant in its show, but is now asking for it to be stopped altogether, claiming Saturday's inspection revealed 11 more circus standard violations.

"This circus is demonstrating widespread substandard welfare practices," SPCA president Sean Kelly said in a release. "We are publicly demanding an immediate revocation of this circus's permit." He said infractions include lack of stimulation and inadequate shelter for some species, as well as an unsafe distance between animals and spectators.

Towers said the provincial department agreed with half of the violations cited, adding some are open for interpretation.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO HALIFAX

Exhibit illustrates slave trade's place in Maritime history

GEOFF DAVIES
for Metro Halifax

The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic unveiled its latest exhibit yesterday, marking the place of the slave trade in Maritime history in time for the upcoming 175th anniversary of abolition in Canada.

John Hennigar-Shuh, the museum's manager of development and partnerships, said On the Road North: Black Canada and the Journey to Freedom is an exhibit that "tells the story of successive movements out of slavery in the (United) States and into Canada."


RYAN TAPLIN / METRO HALIFAX

Laura Cain and Alvira Cain of the North Preston Senior Citizens Club pose yesterday with a freedom quilt, featured in a new exhibit at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

"There was for years a sense that the Maritime heritage of this province was owned by old white guys with beards," Hennigar-Shuh said.

"This exhibit helps us to underline for everyone who comes here that our history is diverse and marvellously complex, and is something that belongs to all of us."

An exhibit highlight is a "freedom quilt" loaned to the museum by the North Preston Senior Citizens' Club. Alvira Cain, president of the club, said the quilt took 20 people over a year to complete. She said the project was one way in which her group is "trying to keep our stories alive from our older ancestors."

"Everything that we make has history to it," Cain said. "What we learned from our own ancestors, now we're teaching our young ones, so it will never fade away."

Cain, who is descended from the black loyalists who originally settled in the Preston area, said four sailing ships depicted in the quilt represent the vessels that brought her ancestors to freedom in Nova Scotia.

Run time

- The exhibit will be at the museum until the end of September. It is part of the celebrations marking the 175th anniversary of abolition in the British Empire, which is recognized Aug. 1.



Two injured after car, Metro Transit bus crash

COLLISION Two people including a 61-year-old male pedestrian were sent to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after a car and a Metro Transit bus collided yesterday afternoon in Dartmouth.

According to Halifax Regional Police, a Metro Transit bus was travelling northbound on Alderney Drive at about 12:50 p.m. when a car going southbound attempted to make a left-hand turn onto Portland Street and drove in front of the bus.

"The bus (then) hit the car causing the car to go up and strike a pedestrian on the sidewalk," said Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter.

The 31-year-old car driver was also injured, and she, along with the pedestrian, was taken to hospital by ambulance with non-life threatening injuries.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation. Police have yet to decide on whether any charges will be laid.

PHILIP CROUCHER/
METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

THEFT The RCMP is investigating a robbery Saturday night at a Needs Convenience store on Sackville Drive in Lower Sackville. Around 9:50 p.m. Saturday evening, three males entered the store, one of them armed with a knife, and demanded money and cigarettes, police said. No one was hurt in the robbery. Police say the investigation is ongoing and are asking anyone with information about the robbery to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. METRO HALIFAX

Hiring students can be good for business, says group
As summer rolls around, students are applying for summer jobs and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business wants employers to look at hiring them. In a release yesterday the CFIB said student workers could improve productivity and bring new energy to a workplace. METRO HALIFAX

Ex-soldier raises $5K for Oxfam in ride

Edmonton man cycles 5,000 km in five weeks

COLIN CHISHOLM
for Metro Halifax

Sunny Side

After biking for five weeks straight from Edmonton to Halifax and sleeping each night in a tent, Greg Plester was relieved to know he would have a roof over his head when he went to bed last night.

"I just want to sit down and sleep for a week," Plester said yesterday in front of Halifax city hall. "I can smell a cheeseburger somewhere calling my name."

Five thousand kilometres and eight provinces later, Plester rode into Halifax around noontime to complete the last leg of his trip that saw him raise money for Oxfam, a non-government organization that focuses on development for impoverished nations.

Plester left his hometown of Edmonton May 4 after gathering pledges personally and through his Facebook group.

He said he paid for everything involved with the trip, and the $5,000 he raised was all going to Oxfam.

> **"I experienced poverty on an unbelievable level."**
> Greg Plester

Plester wanted to raise money for Oxfam after a tour of duty in Afghanistan with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. He said he saw the projects Oxfam was doing in that country to make life better for the Afghanistan people and wanted to help.

"I experienced poverty on an unbelievable level," he said recalling his tour that ended last September. "This is something I was going to make a commitment to."

Plester said he looks forward to going back to Edmonton and working towards a law degree from the University of Alberta.

After being with the Armed Forces for six years, Plester would like to work within the field of international development.

"My girlfriend's been fantastic through it," he said. "I've been gone for a long time now, not just this trip but I was in the desert for a while too, she misses me a lot and I think she'll be glad for me to grow some roots in Edmonton again."

During his trip Plester said he ate roughly 8,000 calories a day to keep his body going.



COLIN CHISHOLM/FOR METRO HALIFAX

Greg Plester arrived in Halifax yesterday, the last leg in a 5,000-kilometre trip from Edmonton. He biked across the country to raise money for Oxfam after witnessing the poverty in Afghanistan during his tour of duty with the Canadian Armed Forces.

Good time to give blood, says service

This is National Blood Donor Week and officials from Canadian Blood Services are calling on people to give blood during the crucial summer months.

The CBS said inventory of blood, plasma and platelets tends to diminish around this time because people are more focused on time off and vacationing, however the need for blood donations remains just as high.

High schools and universities that usually have blood donation stations throughout the school year are also either closed for the summer or do not have enough students to participate.

Regional communications specialist Jillian Brown said last year was a hard one for hospitals that needed blood, and that demand goes up approximately two per cent every year. "One donation an hour can save three lives," she said. "We need all blood types."

Brown said she encourages people to give blood this week because they would be eligible to give blood again over the Labour Day holiday, which is one of the hardest periods for blood stores. COLIN CHISHOLM/ FOR METRO HALIFAX

Decision on whisky's name may face appeal

COURT Distillers of Canada's only single malt whisky may have to slay another dragon in a battle to keep their Glen Breton name.

Glenora Distillers International Ltd., based in Glenville, Inverness Co., were informed the Scotch Whisky Association is seeking leave from the Supreme Court of Canada to appeal a decision of the Federal Court of Appeal announced early this year.

The Federal Court of Appeal approved the registration of "Glen Breton Rare," Glenora's signature single malt whisky, and reversed an earlier decision of the Federal Court of Canada.

Glenora president Lauchie MacLean said nine judges must now decide whether to grant the leave. He said that decision could come in as early as a week, or later in August.

If a leave is granted, the appeal could take up to a year-and-a-half before being heard in the Supreme Court of Canada.

CAPE BRETON POST

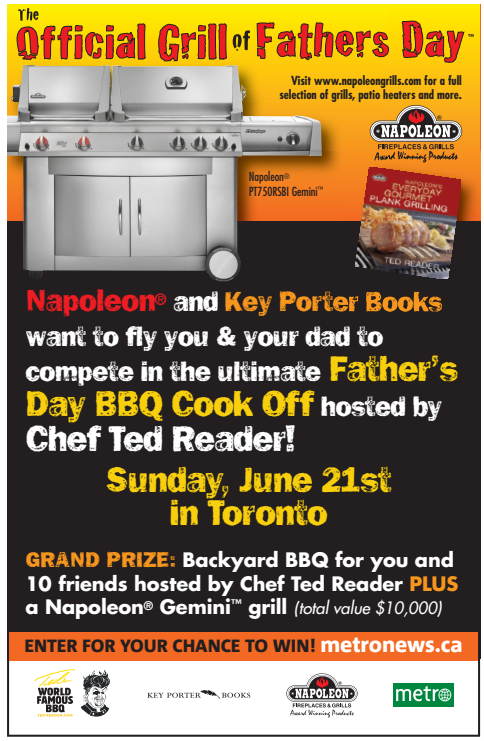
Elementary school demolished

EDUCATION Stewiacke Elementary School was torn down yesterday.

The building closed back in January when 85 students were moved to Winding River Consolidated, a new facility that brought together two elementary schools from the area.

A demolition crew worked all day long tearing down the 61-year-old building.

TRURO DAILY NEWS





Man finds grenade in garage

A Charlottetown man found a suspected Second World War-era grenade in his garage. The unidentified man dropped off the grenade at a police station yesterday morning. The man found it in a rusty container while cleaning out his garage. Police say they believe the device is live, CBC News Online reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada



Blast kills Canadian soldier

A Canadian soldier was killed by a bomb blast while on foot patrol in southern Afghanistan yesterday, military officials said. He was the 119th member of Canada's armed forces to die in Afghanistan. Officials named the dead man as 20-year-old Private Alexandre Peloquin, left. Canada has about 2,700 soldiers based in the southern city of Kandahar on a mission that is due to end in 2011. REUTERS

Tens of millions lost in metals

MISSING A mint's missing stock of precious metals is worth tens of millions of dollars.

While officials at the Royal Canadian Mint have not publicly released a value, insiders have confirmed that auditors are trying to track precious metals, believed to be gold, worth millions and in the "double-digits."

That amount of missing gold would weigh in at more than 400 kilograms kgs.

An external audit, launched in early March, is trying to reconcile the mint's records with the physical stocks of gold, silver, platinum and palladium, the four precious metals used by the Crown corporation in its production of coins and collector sets.

> **"There's no possible way to explain the loss of tens of millions of dollars through simple administrative... missteps."**
> MP Thomas Mulclair

Mint officials remain confident that bookkeeping errors are to blame. But they haven't ruled out theft and some at the institution now believe a police probe is inevitable if the review is unable to provide good answers.

Given the high value of the missing metals, NDP MP Thomas Mulcair said yesterday that mint staff should be calling on police to immediately launch a criminal investigation.

"There's no possible way to explain the loss of tens of millions of dollars through simple administrative or bureaucratic foul-ups and missteps," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/REUTERS

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty smiles yesterday as he walks through the International Economic Forum of the Americas conference in Montreal. Flaherty said more Canadians are spending money now that signs of economic recovery are beginning to show.

Canadians spending more money: MP

Flaherty says economic recovery may be on its way

Global economic recovery may be on its way, and certainly in Canada people are loosening their purse strings again, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday.

He also said the federal government's budget deficit now looks to be "slightly more" than $50 billion this fiscal year, but most of it is one-time spending, such as stimulus initiatives and aid for the automotive industry, and not a structural shortfall.

Flaherty's remarks on an economic recovery echoed those of others who are seeing "green shoots," and he spoke of improvements in financial markets.

Housing starts up

- As an indication of housing demand, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp said yesterday that housing starts had risen 9.2 per cent in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 128,400 units, and should grow this year and in 2010.

"The global recession began in financial markets. These positive signs in financial markets give us cause for cautious optimism that a global economic recovery may not be far behind," he told reporters.

In Canada, Flaherty said he saw increases in demand for new housing. "I think people are responding to the fact that mortgage rates are low," he said, noting that rates are at their lowest level since the Second World War.

"What I see in the Canadian economy is some indications of stabilization and some positive indications about people being willing to spend again," Flaherty said. "I know, just in terms of personal household infrastructure, we have had a huge response to the home renovation tax credit. We know that it's out there working in the economy and that people are spending the money." REUTERS

Isotope crisis 'sexy,' says Tory MP

RECORDING Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt calls the medical isotope crisis "sexy," looks forward to getting credit for fixing it, and expresses doubts about the skill of Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq in a recording made public by a Halifax newspaper.

Raitt made the comments to her then-aide, Jasmine MacDonnell, who appears to have inadvertently recorded the conversation, the Halifax Chronicle-Herald reported.

In the recording, Raitt and MacDonnell discuss their unsuccessful efforts to get Aglukkaq to contribute a quote to a news release on the isotope crisis.

"You know what? Good. Because when we win on this, we get all the credit. I'm ready to roll the dice on this," Raitt says in a recording.

The recording was made not long after a heavy water leak at the Chalk River, Ont., nuclear reactor, the newspaper reported. In another excerpt, MacDonnell says the isotope issue is hard to control, "because it's confusing to a lot of people."

"But it's sexy," says Raitt. "Radioactive leaks. Cancer."

"Nuclear contamination," says Ms. MacDonnell.

"But it's only about money," says Ms. Raitt.

The Prime Minister's Office nevertheless reiterated its confidence in Raitt last night. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Record drug bust in Calgary

Calgary police say they have netted the largest total cocaine seizure in Alberta's history, CBC News Online reports. Police announced yesterday that they arrested 14 people and seized 80 kilograms of cocaine over the course of a year-long investigation. METRO NEWS SERVICES



SARAH KIRBY-YUNG/VANCOUVER AQUARIUM

Beluga whale Aurora and her newborn calf swim with Aurora's older daughter, Qila, and Qila's one-year-old calf, Tiqa, at the Vancouver Aquarium yesterday.

Baby beluga meets family at aquarium

The baby beluga born at the Vancouver Aquarium on Sunday is doing well and has been introduced to her other relatives.

Staff veterinarian Dr. Marty Haulena said that observations during the first 18 hours showed strong interaction between Aurora and her calf and that nursing is underway.

Just after 9 a.m. yesterday, the baby met Qila and her one-year-old calf Tiga.

The two mothers and daughters swam in pairs for the first minute, marking the first occasion for two beluga calves to share a habitat at the Vancouver Aquarium. As they swam, Tiqa became increasingly curious about the new baby.

"This is an exciting time for everyone — Aurora, her calf, our other belugas and certainly for Aquarium visitors," Haulena said.

"Aurora is doing a great job and we continue to see her maternal instincts come to the fore."

The calf and mother will continue to remain under 24-hour observation by the Aquarium's veterinary care teams. METRO CANADA

Minister has harsh words for Toronto

CITIES Toronto's only application for funding under the federal government's $4 billion infrastructure stimulus fund was met with a profane dismissal by Transport Minister John Baird yesterday.

In an unguarded moment, Baird told aides Toronto stood alone in not meeting the technical criteria for federal funding, yet was complaining about Ottawa dragging its feet.

"Twenty-seven-hundred people got it right. They didn't. That is not a partnership and they're bitching at us," he said.

"They should f— off."

The federal minister overseeing the infrastructure fund was overheard by a Star reporter after he mistakenly walked into a media room at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities convention at this British Columbia resort.

When his words were read back to him, he acknowledged his remarks.

Toronto made a calculated move to seek funding to replace its aging streetcar fleet by submitting just one application while most municipalities submitted long lists of projects.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Alaska reports five flu cases from liner

Five crew members on a Holland America cruise ship have been diagnosed with influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, after tests in the Alaskan port of Ketchikan, said the Alaska Division of Public Health. REUTERS

World



Gabonese president dies

Gabon's president Omar Bongo, Africa's longest-serving leader, died yesterday in a Spanish clinic, the Gabonese prime minister said. The death of Bongo, pictured at left with his wife, comes after more than four decades in power and leaves a political void in the oil-producing country which he tightly controlled. The 73-year-old checked into the clinic in Barcelona in May, officially to rest after the death of his wife. REUTERS

North Korea jails two U.S. journalists

North Korea yesterday raised the stakes in its confrontation with Washington by sentencing two American journalists to 12 years hard labour for "grave crimes" while U.S. President Barack Obama's spokesman said the two were innocent and should be freed.

Obama is due to meet with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak at the White House on June 16 to discuss a number of issues, expected to include growing threats by North Korea which tested a nuclear bomb in May.

The journalists, Euna Lee and Laura Ling, of Current TV, were arrested in March working on a story near the border between North Korea and China. The trial for the two, working for the company co-founded by former U.S. vice-president Al Gore, had opened Thursday.

"The trial confirmed the grave crime they committed against the Korean nation and their illegal border crossing as they had already been indicted and sentenced each of them to 12 years of reform through labour," the official KCNA news agency said in a brief dispatch.

In Washington, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the journalists' fate should not be linked to the dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear program.

The White House said in a statement Obama was "deeply concerned" and added: "We are engaged through all possible channels to secure their release."



Euna Lee, left, and Laura Ling were arrested March 18 on the China-North Korea border.

The journalists' sentence seemed certain to deepen the chill in relations with the United States which has been trying for years to convince Stalinist North Korea to give up its ambition of becoming a nuclear weapons power. REUTERS

Baghdad bomb kills seven

IRAQ A bomb attached to a minibus killed seven people and wounded 24 others at a bus terminal in southern Baghdad yesterday, police said. Violence has fallen sharply in Iraq over the past year, and the number of civilians killed in May was the lowest monthly toll since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. But Iraqi and U.S. forces have yet to stamp out a stubborn insurgency. The blast took place in the mainly Shiite Muslim neighborhood of Abu Dsheer. Shiite areas are often targeted by Sunni Islamist groups who consider Shiites heretics. REUTERS



Iran Tying on support for Mousavi



MORTEZA NIKOUBAZL/REUTERS

Supporters of former Iranian prime minister and presidential candidate Mirhossein Mousavi wear green ribbons, the symbolic colour of his campaign, as they prepare to participate in a human chain in Tehran yesterday.

News in brief

POLITICS British Prime Minister Gordon Brown survived a challenge to his authority yesterday, winning over Labour members of parliament after admitting mistakes and taking responsibility for a week of political turmoil. Addressing Labour's 350 MPs a day after his party suffered a defeat in European elections, Brown said he was determined to fight on as leader. "I know I need to improve," Brown told the MPs, according to a spokesman.

THAILAND Gunmen killed 10 people and wounded 12 more when they opened fire at a mosque in Thailand's south yesterday. An insurgency has been rumbling in the region bordering Malaysia since 2004. REUTERS

U.S. pushes for talks

MIDDLE EAST The U.S. said yesterday it would make a new push for Israeli-Palestinian talks and envoy George Mitchell, en route to the region, hoped to lay the groundwork.

"The president has told me to exert all efforts to create the circumstance when the parties can begin immediate discussions," Mitchell told reporters, referring to renewed negotiations that U.S. President Barack Obama has pledged to pursue.

Mitchell was to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu today and Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas tomorrow.

Netanyahu is at odds with Obama over the president's demand to halt Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank and has not endorsed the creation of a Palestinian state, a cornerstone of U.S. Middle East policy. REUTERS

Gun battle

- Israeli soldiers yesterday killed three Palestinian militants who had planned to blast open Israel's fenced border with the Hamas-run Gaza Strip. A gun battle erupted when gunmen, under cover of early morning fog, fired at an Israeli patrol near the Karni crossing on the Israeli side of the border, the Israeli military said.

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EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Comment

Time is right for Grits



The doomsayers were wrong again. There's no great depression, as some were forecasting last fall. And the recession, while serious enough, will not be one of dire magnitude. Experts are now suggesting we're already past the worst of it.

"We are in the process of turning the corner," said Aron Gample, deputy chief economist at the Bank of Nova Scotia. "Bonds, stocks — every market is telling you we are at this transition from recession to recovery."

Unemployment has reached an 11-year high of 8.4 per cent. Compared to the years from the late 1970s into the 1990s when double-digit joblessness was the norm, it's hardly earth-shattering.

The relatively good news changes the political equation. A summer election has suddenly become a better bet. The Liberals are divided on the prospect, but the latest economic outlook gives the party's election hawks more ammunition. The Grits' chances of winning an election today are good. Tomorrow, who knows. The economy was supposed to be the Conservatives' death trap. Given time, it could turn into their lifeline.

"With a decent campaign, (the Liberals will) likely win."
Pollster Frank Graves

The Grits won 26 per cent of the vote the last election. They're about 10 points higher in most polls now and hold a narrow lead over the Tories. Pollster Frank Graves said in an interview if he were Liberal leader, he'd push for an election right now. "With a decent campaign, they'll likely win."

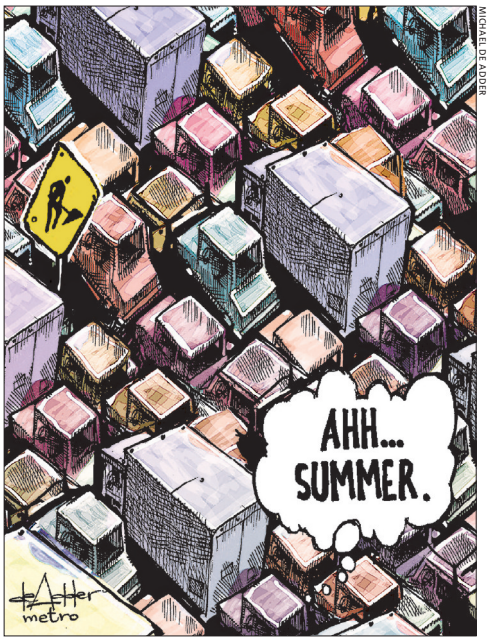
Given the changing economic tides, the Conservatives no longer fear an immediate election. It's even possible the Liberals won't need the support of the other opposition parties to force a campaign. If they signal their wish for one, Prime Minister Stephen Harper might well say, "OK, let's go."

Whether it's now or later, it's a good bet Harper will lead his troops into a fourth campaign. That prospect would have been unlikely had the economic plunge been as deep as originally expected. The new tidings mean Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, he of the bone-headed economic updates and wonky deficit forecasts, will likely stay in place as well.

Many were hoping the PM would turn to the steady Jim Prentice to take over finance. It would have positioned him as the Harper heir apparent. But Flaherty is safe and Prentice will be left holding the bag in the environment portfolio where the government's foot-dragging on a carbon emissions regime has become embarrassing.

For the prime minister to move Flaherty now would be an admission of failed economic management. That's the case the Liberals have been trying to make. It will become harder as time moves on.

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Time to boost Canadian literacy rates



It's hard to talk about the skills shortage at a time when people are losing their jobs. But the evidence is clear, in spite of the economic downturn, that the combination of our aging population and reduced fertility rates means Canada is facing an acute skills shortages.

Investing in education, at all levels, remains fundamental to our future economic prosperity. Attention has been focused on the fact that Canada ranks lower than other countries at the highest levels of skills attainment, producing fewer PhDs and graduates in sciences, business and engineering. However, the strongest determinant of our prosperity as a nation is rates of literacy.

Just more than a year ago, a report, Literacy Matters, by TD Financial Group estimated the Canadian economy could enjoy a $32-billion boost if literacy rates were improved by only one per cent.

Statistics Canada reports that more than seven million Canadian adults can barely read and comprehend simple printed materials, and more than 25 per cent of Canadian high school graduates lack the literacy skills needed for entry level jobs.



High school dropouts or graduates with minimal skills — immigrants, particularly women; people with learning disabilities; aboriginal people; and francophones — have lower than average rates. Many develop coping skills to mask their inability to read.

Often, illiteracy creates a vicious cycle of poverty and underachievement. Parents who cannot read to their children cannot help them with their homework or as easily inspire them to achieve. If you are not literate enough to use simple manuals, you probably can't use the Internet and you most certainly are not going to be part of the "new" economy. Illiteracy also carries significant social costs and is associated with poorer health and higher rates of crime.

The costs of investing in education are dwarfed by the costs of illiteracy.

Like my university colleagues, I want investments in research and in graduate programs. But we must lay a solid foundation in addressing basic skills for all Canadians. It is not simply a matter of developing the "pipeline" to higher education or of equality and social justice, it is founded on a solid business case and our prosperity depends on it.

As Literacy Matters: A Call For Action notes: "It is hard to identify any other single issue that can have such a large payoff to individuals, the economy and society than literacy."

Wendy Cukier is the associate dean of the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University, and the founder of Ryerson's Diversity Institute.

Worth mentioning

Dwindling fish stocks blamed on subsidies

The world's seas are filled with too much garbage and too few fish, with flimsy plastic bags and government subsidies bearing much of the blame, activists and trade officials said yesterday on the first UN World Oceans Day.

World Trade Organization director-general Pascal Lamy used the occasion to note that some species are at risk of extinction from overfishing, and government subsidies bear some of the blame.

"Governments have contributed to this problem by providing nearly $16 billion annually in subsidies to the fisheries sector," Lamy said. "This support keeps more boats on the water and fewer fish in the sea."

$20B
Global fisheries subsidies are estimated at $20 billion or more annually, an amount equivalent to 25 per cent of the value of the world catch. Economic losses from overfishing in marine areas are $50 billion per year, according to a 2008 World Bank/FAO report.

He said WTO members are now negotiating to reform subsidies programs to make fishing a sustainable industry.

Eighty per cent of the world's fisheries are under pressure, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): Overexploited, fully exploited, significantly depleted or recovering from overexploitation.

REUTERS

Metro Online Poll Results

73% SAID YES	Should Canada retaliate against Buy American provisions? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	27% SAID NO

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GM to halt medium-duty truck production
General Motors Corp. said yesterday it would cease production of Chevrolet Kodiak and GMC Topkick medium-duty trucks by July 31 after attempts to sell the operation failed. The automaker sold about 20,000 of the vehicles last year. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Airlines fear oil rally

Body predicts industry will lose $9B in 2009

Global airlines called for concerted action to prevent another runaway surge in oil prices as the International Air Transport Association nearly doubled its forecast for industry losses to $9 billion US in 2009.

The head of the Geneva-based airline lobby yesterday lambasted "greedy speculation" in oil markets and accused governments of squandering money raised from aviation while carriers suffer from still slumping demand.

"I am a realist. I don't see facts to support optimism," IATA director general Giovanni Bisignani told the aviation body's annual meeting in Malaysia.

However, John Leahy, commercial director at European aircraft manufacturer Airbus, said that while 2009 would be tough, plans by United Airlines to order as many as 150 new planes from Airbus or rival Boeing Co. showed the market was starting to turn around.

"Cancellations are not as much of an issue as deferrals. I don't think we'll have that many more cancellations," Leahy said.

IATA, the voice of more than 200 airlines, has repeatedly warned of a grim year for carriers as global recession shrinks passenger demand and weak financing drives down cargo trade.

Conditions have worsened after the outbreak of influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, caused a worldwide health scare and as oil prices — until recently a sole bright spot on the horizon after peaking near $150 a barrel last year — climb again.

Prices for jet fuel in Singapore have jumped almost 60 per cent since bottoming out at $46 a barrel in March.

REUTERS

Loads lower

- Air Canada reported yesterday a load factor of 81 per cent for last month, down from 84.3 per cent in May 2008.
- Jazz Air, Air Canada's regional affiliate, reported a load factor of 65.6 per cent in May, a drop of 6.8 points year-over-year.


ROBERT GALBRAITH/REUTERS

Attendees show off their Apple devices at Apple Inc.'s Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco, Calif., yesterday.

Apple halves iPhone price

TECH Apple Inc. halved the price of its entry-level iPhone to $99 US yesterday, kicking off a closely watched annual conference in San Francisco.

The company also unveiled the next-generation iPhone 3GS, which takes videos and has voice features, matching offerings by rivals Palm and Research in Motion's BlackBerry. It goes on sale in the United States and other countries on June 19 for $199 to $299.

Among other announcements, Apple showed off a new 15-inch notebook with improved battery life, a $300-cheaper Mac Air — its thinnest laptop — and, as expected, its highly previewed "Snow Leopard" Mac operating system software.

Apple's new MacBook Air notebook now starts at $1,499. The company also unveiled a new 13-inch MacBook Pro starting at $1,199, and a 15-inch laptop with longer battery life, addressing a perennial consumer concern. REUTERS

Jobs absent

- Chief executive Steve Jobs, a pancreatic cancer survivor, did not appear despite speculation he would, after springing his leave of absence on stunned markets in January by saying his health problems were more complex than previously thought.

The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Auto group provides virus protection:
The Carroll Automotive Group, one of the largest automotive groups in Atlantic Canada, is among the first in the country to purchase antimicrobial masks to provide its employees and their families with protection from influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, and other viruses

Fundraising effort for Habitat for Humanity:
The Delta Halifax Hotel held a fundraising event in support of Habitat for Humanity on Thursday. Over $60,000 was raised from ticket sales alone, with another $22,000 in donations coming from beverage and auction sales at the event.

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Business in brief

HOUSING Canadian housing construction bounced back in May after dropping to a 13-year low in April, according to figures released by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation yesterday, with seasonally adjusted housing starts hitting 128,400 in May, up from 117,600 in the prior month.

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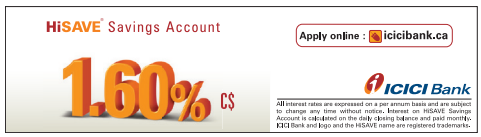
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Tip of the Day: Keep your head and your heart going in the right direction and you will not have to worry about your feet. – *Source Unknown*

Your Money

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Use your imagination, not your bank account



AlisonOnMoney





Remember Wayne's World? Want a genuinely visceral (and free) thrill? Get in touch with an Airport Watch group and park yourself near landing flight paths.

Hey! What happened to deflation? It was the scary economic spectre raised as the world slipped over the brink of recession last year.

With deflation, prices and wages fall — what a concept. We've had the latter but not much of the former.

Movie tickets are as high as ever — don't get me started on popcorn. Concerts and plays too. And I haven't noticed many golf courses offering discounts.

So if girls or guys just want to have fun, can you do it without running up the tab? Absolutely. In summer, antique shows and flea markets are a blast. Even kids love to wander through the ancient stuff Mum and Dad used to play with or wear. Take a picnic and you have a great day trip. Big malls often offer an antiquing week with parking and admission free.

Farmer's markets are a lovely way to spend a weekend morning. You have to buy vegetables anyway, why not add value to the experience and support a local farmer at the same time?

Alison's Money Rule:

- Once you stop associating value with cost you will realize some of the best things in life really are free — or close to it.

The best people watching is in Venice Beach, Calif., but every city has at least one good spot to exercise your eyeballs. From waterfront parks to trendy shopping streets, you'll find the biggest reality show in the world.

Try an entire summer without renting a DVD. Yes, you can do it! Instead, get them free from the library. You'll uncover some gems like the BBC's witty and completely un-hip Monarch of the Glen series.

And if you want completely something off the wall, hit the local airport with folks from an Airport Watch group. Many cities have such members that park themselves with binoculars and lawn chairs in landing and take-off flight paths. It's a completely different and visceral thrill.

Send me your cheap entertainment tips and we'll get an online list started.

Alison Griffiths is a financial journalist, author and host of Maxed Out on the W Network. Write to her at alison@alisongriffiths.ca.

Household debt hits all-time high

SURVEY A new report by the Certified General Accountants Association of Canada (CGA-Canada) reveals that household debt has reached an all-time high of $1.3 trillion in 2008, yet Canadians perceive their financial condition to be better than it is. According to the report, Canadian families are financing consumption activity with unearned money as they increasingly reach for credit to finance day-to-day living expenses.

The report, Where Has the Money Gone: The State of Canadian Household Debt in a Stumbling Economy, is based on a consumer survey conducted in November 2008.

"Household debt has increased significantly over recent years, jeopardizing the financial security of Canadian households," says Anthony Ariganello, President and CEO of CGA-Canada. "Many Canadians ... continue to load up their credit cards and lines of credit, while committing few, or in some cases, no resources to savings."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Favre told to make up his mind

The Minnesota Vikings reportedly have told Brett Favre to decide this week if he wants to play this year. ESPN says coach Brad Childress imposed the deadline on the star quarterback. The network cited two unidentified sources yesterday on its website. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Nadal's knees tested

Rafael Nadal, left, is having his knees checked by doctors and an announcement on his status for Wimbledon is expected in the coming days. Nadal's website says the reigning Wimbledon champion is undergoing medical tests yesterday and today. Nadal withdrew from this week's Wimbledon tuneup citing knee trouble. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Penguins hope to stop history from repeating

Stanley Cup
2009 **Final**

Way back when this season was new and full of possibilities, the NHL released a brilliant series of commercials with the tag line "Is this the year?"

One featured a still picture of Sidney Crosby slumped near the Pittsburgh bench amidst a group of inconsolable Penguins, enduring the Red Wings' on-ice celebration of yet another Stanley Cup victory. Suddenly Crosby came to life, stepping out of that two-dimensional world.

"This is a tough one," said the now animated Pittsburgh captain. "Getting this close and not winning the Cup. But I know it will make our team stronger. I never want to be in this photograph again."

Well, for Crosby, there may be a retake of that crushing moment tonight.

For second consecutive spring, the Penguins could watch the Stanley Cup presented on their home ice to the Red Wings. Detroit leads the final three games to two and is a lone victory from their fifth championship in 13 years.



BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby skates at yesterday's practice in preparation for tonight's pivotal Game 6 of the Stanley Cup final.

The Penguins, humbled 5-0 in Game 5 at Detroit, are grasping for reasons to believe that this year's edition is indeed good enough to do what it couldn't last spring and push this series to a seventh game on Friday night.

There is the fact they won their first two games against the Wings on home ice, the belief that goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury will bounce back after a bad night, that the supporting players, the ones often absent from the scoresheet despite ample ice time, will finally step up and start producing.

"All the work it takes in a year to get here, we realize how much it takes," said Fleury. "We can't quit now."

Key, perhaps, is that stinging memory of watching the Cup paraded at Mellon Arena. Talk about motivation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Magic face uphill battle

NBA
2009 **Finals**

BASKETBALL The Orlando Magic have defied the odds throughout the postseason and have every intention of doing it one more time in the NBA Finals.

Orlando defeated defending champions Boston and Eastern Conference favourites Cleveland during the playoffs despite lacking the coveted home-court advantage.

Trailing 2-0 in the Finals after losing their first two games away to Los Angeles, the Magic face an even tougher task to reel in the Lakers, but can breathe new life into their sagging campaign with a win in game three at home tonight.

"The bottom line is we knew we were going to have to win here in L.A. in this series, just like we had to in the Boston and Cleveland series," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said after the Lakers beat the Magic 101-96 in overtime on Sunday.

"From a mental standpoint it was a little easier in those series because we won Game 1. Bottom line is we came here for two games and we didn't get the job done.

"Now we have to go home and have a great game three."

Only three teams have recovered from an 0-2 deficit to win the NBA Finals, but the last time was only three years ago when Miami won four straight after losing their first two to Dallas.

REUTERS

Lind's two dingers carry Jays

MLB RESULTS

Toronto 6 Texas 3

BASEBALL Adam Lind belted a pair of two-run homers, as the Toronto Blue Jays doubled up the Rangers, 6-3, in the opener of a four-game series against Texas.

Marco Scutaro collected three hits and drove in a run for the Blue Jays, who have won three of their last four games.

Casey Janssen (2-2) started for Toronto and recorded the win after giving up three runs — two earned — on six hits with two walks and six strikeouts over 5⅓ innings. Scott Downs recorded the final four outs for his eighth save.

Marlon Byrd went 2-for-4 with an RBI, and David Murphy doubled twice and scored once for Texas, which has dropped five of eight.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

GOLF John Daly makes his return to the PGA Tour from his six-month suspension this week. His return to the U.S. Open will have to wait. Daly managed only four birdies over 36 holes in a U.S. Open qualifier yesterday and didn't come close to qualifying.

BLUE JAYS Toronto Blue Jays first baseman Lyle Overbay has been named the American League Player of the Week. In six games last week, Overbay led the majors with a .533 batting average, .632 on-base percentage and 1.200 slugging percentage.

SALE English Premier League club West Ham was taken over by a government-controlled Icelandic bank yesterday. A moratorium on West Ham chairman Bjorgolfur Gudmundsson's debts was set to expire, so Straumur Burdaras Investment Bank assumed ownership of the club after having provided the finance for its 2006 takeover.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Quinn itching for NHL return

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Canada

After a seven-year stint as head coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Pat Quinn thought about retirement.

"I wasn't that anxious about getting back in," Quinn said of his mindset after being fired by the Leafs following a disappointing 2006 season when Toronto missed the playoffs.

Quinn, who averaged 43 wins a season during his Toronto tenure, took some time to assess his future and found himself itching to get behind the bench less than a year after being let go.

"By February, I figured, geez, I miss this," said Quinn, who was recently hired as head coach of the Edmonton Oilers. "I wasn't ready for retirement. I started to let it be known that if anybody might be interested in a good coach that I'd be willing to talk to them."



JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

Pat Quinn

Quinn went on to coach Canada to gold medals at the 2008 world under-18 hockey championships in Kazan, Russia, and the 2009 world junior hockey championships in Ottawa.

"He's one of those coaches that just sort of stands out," said L.A. Kings prospect Thomas Hickey, Team Canada's captain in Ottawa. "He's a very high pedigree and he's very well respected so it was neat to be one of his players."

With assistance from associate coach Tom Renney, Quinn is looking forward to getting the most out of Edmonton's young talent.

"We're going to spend our next two months, three months deciding on a system of play that can help our guys be the best they can be," said the 66-year-old bench boss, who won the Jack Adams Award as the NHL's top coach in both 1980 with the Philadelphia Flyers and in 1992 with the Vancouver Canucks. "We'll find that. We'll work together and we'll see what we can do and we'll give them the best we can to have some good results at the end of the day."

Real Madrid picks up AC Milan's Kaka

SOCCER Real Madrid have signed Brazilian midfielder Kaka from AC Milan, the Primera Liga club said on its website yesterday. The 27-year-old international has agreed to a six-year contract to become the first player to join Real since Florentino Perez returned to the presidency this month.



Kaka

Reports said the transfer fee was the equivalent of roughly $101 million, which would make the transfer the biggest since Zinedine Zidane joined Real from Juventus in 2001.

The player is on international duty with Brazil in his home country, and completed a medical earlier in the day.

REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
YESTERDAY
Toronto 6 Texas 3
Detroit 5 Chi. White Sox 4 (Gm 1)
N.Y. Yankees 5 Tampa Bay 3
Chi. White Sox 6 Detroit 1 (Gm 2)
Minnesota at Oakland

NATIONAL LEAGUE
YESTERDAY
Colorado 5 St. Louis 2
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Florida 4 San Francisco 0
Arizona at San Diego

NHL

TODAY
Detroit at Pittsburgh
FRIDAY
x-Pittsburgh at Detroit

NBA

TODAY
L.A. Lakers at Orlando
THURSDAY
L.A. Lakers at Orlando
SUNDAY
x-L.A. Lakers at Orlando
TUESDAY, JUNE 16
x-Orlando at L.A. Lakers

x - Only played if necessary

Ortiz's eyes are fine
David Ortiz's vision has checked out very well as the Boston Red Sox try to help him out of his season-long slump. The designated hitter received drops for dry eyes, a team spokesperson said. Ortiz has two homers and 22 RBIs with a .197 batting average in 51 games. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada's female athletes benefiting from U.S. law

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Canada

Canadian female athletes can still benefit from a law enacted in the United States way back in 1972.

Known as Title IX, the landmark legislation banned sex discrimination in schools, whether it be in academics or athletics.

The legislation helped to open up doors for female athletes to receive equal amounts of scholarship dollars as their male counterparts.

"It's a great way to develop women's sports," said Calgarian Carla MacLeod, who attended the University of Wisconsin on an athletic scholarship from 2001-05. A veteran member of Canada's National Women's Hockey Team, MacLeod enjoyed getting an opportunity to play for the Wisconsin Badgers while attending school.

If it wasn't for Title IX, Joan Lettman would have never attended Murray State University and run track for the Racers.

"A lot of people don't know that there are these scholarships out there," said Lettman, noting that it was quite an adjustment moving from Toronto in 2004 to the small college town of Murray, Ken., but that she's glad she did it. "That opportunity will always be there (for others)."

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Learning Curve is a monthly feature that focuses on education and student life. Next month's issue comes out on July 14.

Learning Curve

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Skills, success linked

More turning to professional development to get ahead

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

As business continues to move faster, more people and companies are investing in professional development training to ensure critical skills keep pace with the speed of change.

Professional development, sometimes considered the sole domain of higher-ups and big-wigs in corner offices, is becoming increasingly relevant — and crucial — in a business environment where more young people are being promoted to supervisory positions than ever before and specialized skills take centre stage in the working world. Examples of professional development include mentorship and apprenticeship programs, leadership training and learning or improving work-related skills that can take your skills to the next level or help you excel in a new, challenging position.

Barbara Dickson, director of custom programs for executive development at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., says people are realizing that increased success in the workplace is not only a result of working harder, but working better as well.

"There's a direct correlation between personal improvement and results — there are functional things you can teach to boost skills," she said.

Dickson says more people are taking professional development studies proactively to make themselves more marketable to potential employers in a measurable way and to show they excel in a wide range of skills, since multi-tasking is key in today's business climate.

"Traditional hierarchies are no longer effective in achieving results — businesses need collaboration to succeed," Dickson said.

Gord Vaxvick, a continuing education consultant at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST), says that professional development courses focusing on supervisory training are in particularly high demand.

Changing business and social climates have made proper management training even more crucial, he says, because today's employees demand a more constructive style of management that is less about commanding people and more about motivating them to excel.

"I think that employees' expectations have changed as well — supervision is no longer just about barking orders and being obeyed, it's a matter of using interpersonal skills to influence employees to do what is best for the company," he said.



Examples of professional development include leadership training, and mentorship and apprenticeship programs.

In trade and business fields, Vaxvick is seeing a sharp increase in the level of responsibilities young people are being tasked with taking on, resulting in a need for management training.

"Most people are promoted to a supervisory position because they have strong technical skills — it's assumed they have strong interpersonal skills as well. That's why coaching and mentoring is increasingly important," Vaxvick said.

SMU fundraiser helps single parents

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax

Saint Mary's University is gearing up for its fundraiser for single parents, hoping to gather life-changing cash for struggling students.

Time for Tea will be held on Sunday, June 21, and the ninth-annual event is aiming to surpass last year's $27,000.

"Single parents face the struggles of everyday living with financial challenges, not just in terms of tuition and books et cetera, but in terms of personal living expenses — daycare, school supplies clothes, et cetera," says event chairwoman Carol Dodds. "They walk a very difficult path, in terms of attending class, studying, often working and raising a family. Many realize that one way to help their future, long term, is to get an education; this will increase their marketability including salary and long-term prospects."



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Saint Mary's University's Time for Tea will be held on June 21.

The money raised at Time for Tea can be the difference between dropping and facing a long-term decline in fortunes, or staying in university and elevating the whole family's conditions. Five students will benefit from funds raised this year.

"I'm so very thankful that there is a wonderful bursary like Friends of Saint Mary's," says a past recipient of the bursary. "There are not many bursaries or scholarships available to single parents, and as a single mother of three young children, entering university was a struggle, financially as well as emotionally."

She said the support provided by the bursary allowed her to continue her education, and in turn, build a life for her family. "I would not have been able to follow my dreams, or be a role model to my children and others."

"One recipient told me that receiving the bursary went beyond a monetary value; it showed that someone cared whether they succeed or not," adds Dodds, wife of SMU president Colin Dodds. "At a time when the world is full of challenges, this recognition can make a huge difference."

Guests attending the event will have the opportunity to enjoy sparkling wine, homemade lemonade, fresh Annapolis Valley strawberries, lobster sandwiches, traditional tea scones, and homemade cakes and squares. Tickets for Time for Tea cost $100, and a tax receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price. Contributions can also be made directly to the Friends of Saint Mary's Bursary fund.

To purchase a ticket or for more information about making a contribution, contact Bonita Ramsay, Office of the President, at (902) 420-5403, or at bonita.ramsay@smu.ca.



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Science award for Mount student

RICHARD WOODBURY
for Metro Halifax

Mount Saint Vincent University student Angel Eastman is working the perfect summer job.

Since May, Eastman has been working alongside a psychology professor studying how emotional experiences affect one's memory. This will continue until the end of August.



Eastman

The third-year honours bachelor of science student earned this opportunity because she's the winner of the Jeanne Sauvé Research Assistantship for Women in Science award. The summer assistantship mentors and encourages a promising female student who is studying science and technology.

Eastman is thrilled about the opportunity, but she can't say too much about the experiment because it is ongoing.

But she will say there are lots of real-world implications for the experiment in forensics and eyewitness testimony, such as how good an eyewitness's memory is depending on an emotional event. "We've been seeing a lot of incorrect responses," she says.

Eastman says the experience will be very helpful for her. "It almost gives me a leg up," she says.

Working on an experiment and conducting research will help her prepare for future courses and it will also beef up her resumé. "As a student when you work, you want to have something that you can put on your resumé or your CV to make it look good," says the psychology major who is also minoring in biology.

The 30-year-old is also a mature student who decided to go back to school three years ago when she moved here from Ontario. In Ontario, she worked as a lab technician, but she didn't find the work challenging enough.

Eastman went to university straight out of high school, but was only a student for two months. She wasn't ready for the experience, but she always planned to go back and knew psychology was for her.

She chose the Mount because it's not a big school, the classes are small and the faculty know students' names.

Eastman would like to work in a clinical setting once she graduates, but she isn't 100 per cent sure. The assistantship is giving her some ideas though. "This job is really opening my eyes to a lot of different areas that I could go into," she says.

SPECIAL FOCUS ON:
Anti-Aging

Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

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Wrinkle and sun-damage reducing options

JANINE FALCON
For Metro Canada


ISTOCK PHOTO
Ditch the quick-fix idea, most skincare products take four to six weeks to work — so get started now!

An important thing to know about anti-aging skincare is that skin renewal takes an average of 28 days, more if you're 40-plus, and pigmentation can be particularly stubborn.

Ditch the quick-fix idea and allow four to six weeks for something new to work. Here are anti-wrinkle, anti-sun damage and eco-friendly options to consider.

Wrinkle Reducers

• Marcelle New-Age Anti-Wrinkle + Firming Cream stimulates collagen production and moisturizes with amino acids, shea butter, caffeine and soybean extract ($27 at Shoppers Drug Mart).

• Neutrogena Ageless Intensives Deep Wrinkle Eye Cream combats under-eye crepiness with super-hydrating hyaluronic acid and Retinol ($28 at drugstores).

• For sensitive skin, Vichy Liftactiv Retinol HA combines hyaluronic acid with Retinol and adenosine, a fast-acting molecule that has retinol-like properties of its own ($49 at drugstores).

• Neostrata Intense Daytime Wrinkle Repair SPF 15 targets deep creases with Matrixyl (a wrinkle-reducing pentapeptide) and Retinol ($68 at drugstores).

• AmorePacific, a luxury Korean botanically-based brand, packs its Contour Lift Extreme Creme with bamboo sap to hydrate, and olive, jojoba and green-tea seed oils as well as minerals and amino acids to nourish and firm ($200 at Holt Renfrew).

Sun-Spot Reducers

• Lancôme Génifique Youth Activator Serum stimulates the production of skin proteins we have in abundance in our youth but lose as we age, and promises brighter, more even skin ($92 at Lancôme counters).

• Clinique Even Better Skin Tone Corrector boosts cell turnover with glucosamine and salicylic acid, and fades and prevents hyperpigmentation with antioxidants and mushroom-derived extracts ($39.50 at Clinique counters).

• Dermalogica ChromaWhite TRx is an anti-dark spot regimen from cleansing to night cream that employs exfoliating lactic acid, skin brightening vitamin C, and pigment inhibiting niacinamide and Oligopeptide-34 (From $50, dermalogica.com for salons).

Eco-Friendly Options

• Burt's Bees Naturally Ageless Intensive Repairing Serum is a 100 per cent natural formula that fights fine lines and wrinkles with botanical oils and extracts, including pomegranate ($29.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart).

• Jouviance EcoRejuvenation Eye Serum reduces dark circles and wrinkles with caffeine-rich pro-collagen peptides and is free of silicones, artificial fragrance, parabens and colourants ($40 at drugstores).

• All-natural Glisodin Skin Nutrients Advanced Daily Formula supplements soften, smooth and brighten skin with a mix of nutrient-dense antioxidant ingredients (Two-month supply, $95; glisodinskin.com for retailers).

SPF

• Anti-aging skincare increases sensitivity to UVA/UVB rays and related hyperpigmentation, so diligent sunscreen habits are crucial. Cliniderm Gentle Protective Lotion SPF 45 shields dry, sensitive, allergic or reactive skin with titanium dioxide and zinc oxide, and has a surprisingly light, fast-absorb texture ($29 at drugstores).

• Wrinkles or pigmentation — which do you treat? Whatever bothers you most. But note: too many anti-aging products at once, such as lactic acid cleanser plus salicylic-acid serum plus retinol cream, might work at first, but could soon cause irritation, dehydration, dryness and actually spell a-g-e-d.

What to buy



AmorePacific Contour Lift Extreme, $200.



Burt's Bees Naturally Ageless Intensive Repairing Serum, $29.99.



Cliniderm Gentle Protective Lotion SPF 45, $29.



Marcelle New-Age Anti-Wrinkle + Firming Cream, $27.



Dermalogica ChromaWhite TRx Pure Light SPF 30 Day Cream, $78.



GliSODin Skin Nutrients Daily Formula, $95.



NeoStrata Intense Daytime Wrinkle Repair, $68.



Lancôme Génifique Youth Activator Serum, $92.



Vichy Liftactiv Retinol HA, $49.



Genetic sexual attraction

Opening of adoption records may cause psychological effects



Imagine, at age 42, finally meeting the son you gave up for adoption at age 16 and finding yourself sexually attracted to him.

Yes, disturbing. But Genetic Sexual Attraction (GSA), that is, being sexually attracted to a biological relative you've never met because you were separated through adoption, is more common than you might think.

Given that on June 1, Ontario became the fifth province to open its adoption records (Nova Scotia has not yet taken this step) — making it easier for adopted adults and birth parents to find each other — some feel there is a need for greater education and support surrounding GSA.

Little has been studied about GSA but one study out of England concluded that sexual attraction was a normal response when blood relatives met as strangers. The study's participants described emotionally charged meetings and the shock of familiarity as they noticed the same interests, traits and mannerisms in their relative. Many described it as feeling like they were looking into a mirror.

Barbara Gonyo, the woman referred to in the opening of this column and author of I'm His Mother, But He's Not My Son (geneticsexualattraction.com), believes there is a natural curiosity and need to know your birth relatives and what traits you share. "When contact is made, these emotions come to a head along with a need for the intimacy removed by the separation." And because there isn't the sexual taboo that usually develops within a family that grows up together, the intensity of these feelings often become sexualized.

By being educated about GSA, says Gonyo, the birth relative and the adoptee might be able to handle any potential sexual feelings and avoid acting on them until they subside and the relationship eventually normalizes.

In some cases, if they have acted on them, educating themselves about GSA can help deal with the psychological effects of this and allow a healthy non-sexual relationship to develop.



Genetic Sexual Attraction — being sexually attracted to a biological relative you've never met because you were separated through adoption — can be overcome through education and support.

Gonyo is happy to hear that Ontario is opening its adoption records, in part because she feels that the secrecy surrounding adoption contributes to the stigma people suffer when they experience GSA. "If all adoptions become open from the beginning and having an adoptive family while still knowing your birth family is a given, then it all becomes more normal."

To learn more about your rights to information and privacy regarding adoption, visit adoptioninfo.ca or call 1-800-461-2156. Visit Josey's blog Sexcetera at metronews.ca/blogs.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.



Left: Blumod men's shirt designed for blemished skin ($99 at sunsoul.com). Right: Yelomod women's long sleeve sport, designed for skin rejuvenation ($115 at sunsoul.com).

Clothing that can save your skin



Blumod baseball cap designed for blemished skin ($58 at sunsoul.com).

FASHION "SunSoul is sports clothing with a twist," says company president Tim Brown of the clothing line that both blocks bad UV rays and transforms them into something good.

The long- and short-sleeved tees, tanks and hats for men and women come in blue (to help treat acne) and yellow (to help fade sunspots).

Brown says SunSoul's fabrics are dermatologist-tested and recognized, and are considered a Class 1 medical device, according to Health Canada standards.

He explained the science via email: Simply put, the nylon-based material with cosmetic properties, known as cosmetotextiles, blocks harmful UV rays and then transmits coloured light through the material to the skin.

"Blue light is proven to battle blemishes by eradicating the bacteria associated with acne," Brown said.

"Yellow light is used for reversing sun damage — red and brown spots on the skin — by penetrating the discoloured spots and disintegrating the damaged cells."

In addition, the lightweight gear wicks away moisture and allows the skin to breathe. Products, $70 US to $115, can be found at sunsoul.com.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

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In brief

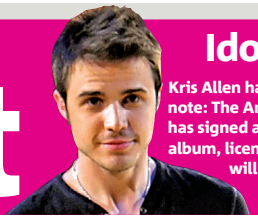
STUDY Middle-aged adults who get too little sleep are more likely to develop high blood pressure, U.S. researchers said on Monday. The study found missing an average one hour of sleep over five years raised the risk of developing high blood pressure by 37 per cent. REUTERS

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Bret Michaels injured at Tony Awards
Bret Michaels was slightly injured during an opening number at Sunday night's 63rd annual Tony Awards. During the musical number the reality star was knocked to the ground after running into a piece of scenery. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment



Idol signed
Kris Allen has hit another high note: The American Idol champ, 23, has signed a record deal. His debut album, licensed to Jive Records, will drop this fall.
USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Energy and attidude

Canadian producer Bob Rock helped The Offspring mash metal, punk

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

Despite his nickname, The Offspring's guitarist Kevin "Noodles" Wasserman says he's no riff-shredding headbanger.

Reached a couple days before the start of the band's tour to support last year's Rise and Fall, Rage and Grace, Wasserman said the band's connection to famed Metallica and Mötley Crüe producer (and Canadian) Bob Rock wasn't because they always hoped to work with the man who helped craft those epic guitar sounds.

In fact, Wasserman's introduction to the genre came by accident, via a cover song.

"None of us were into metal early on. I always loved Paranoid by Black Sabbath — that was one of the few (metal songs) I got into," he said. "But I always thought that it was a Dickies song, at least until I played the record for some friends and they said it was Black Sabbath."



Canadian producer Bob Rock helped The Offspring put together 2008's Rise and Fall, Rage and Grace.

Despite Wasserman's denials, the guitar intros to Hammerhead or A Lot Like Me sound less like those Southern California punk legends than Rock-produced Metallica. When pushed, he says the better he gets at guitar, the more he appreciates the fretwork of players like Van Halen, and AC/DC's three-chord assault — an influence that can be heard in much of The Offspring catalogue, which has long merged punk energy and attitude with metal's heavy riffs.

"None of us are really metalheads, but we do appreciate bits and pieces of it," said Wasserman. "Metallica is a great band ... and the guitar playing on the Black Album is great, in terms of in your face shredding. (But) I like a good song first, and a good shred second — no excessive shredding."

Returning to the Dickies-Metallica dichotomy, The Offspring do focus their lyrical content more on So-Cal punk. Despite pushing their fourth decade on earth, the band members continues writing songs about — and aimed at — the youth audience. Asked what it is about the youngsters that so inspires the Offspring, Wasserman said it's because that's who their peers are.

"We've never had to get a real job, and for the last 14 years we've been able to tour the country, drink beer and have fun," he said. (A young audience) isn't something we think about in terms of targeting our songs, it's just who we are, and what we watch on TV. We grew up listening to that kind of music, and that feeling in music, so we keep coming back to it."

Offspring live

- The Offspring are set to play Citadel Hill on July 4.

Carradine probe could take a month



David Carradine

PEOPLE Thai police said yesterday the cause of U.S. actor David Carradine's death in a Bangkok hotel room would not be known until they had the results of the autopsy and toxicology tests in a month's time.

Police refused to give further details about their investigation into the 72-year-old actor's mysterious death, amid intense media speculation about causes ranging from suicide to murder via accidental autoerotic asphyxiation.

"We are still investigating but we will not make any assumptions about his death until we have gathered all the facts," the deputy Bangkok police chief, Lieutenant-General Amnoy Nimmino, told a news conference.

"We have to wait for the toxicology reports, the result of the autopsy and forensic evidence. We will know everything in one month." REUTERS







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The Exorcist returns

It's not a sequel or a prequel or a reboot or a remake, but a film based on Mark Opsasnick's book The Real Story Behind The Exorcist is on the cards from Vertigo Entertainment. EMPIREONLINE.COM

DVD picks

Gran Torino

Director: Clint Eastwood

THE DURABLE Clint Eastwood transforms a stereotypical racist into a fully realized character in what many people think should have been called Dirty Harry VI. It's a thoughtful work that continues the actor/director's late-career surge.

In truth, it's more in line with Unforgiven, the understated 1992 western that won Eastwood Oscars for Best Picture and Best Director. There's a similar theme of reconciling past deeds and paying the toll that violence exacts, along with a shared economy of lensing and dialogue.

Eastwood plays Walt Kowalski, a widowed Korean War vet and retired Ford factory worker in suburban Detroit whose grim outlook on life has suddenly become a lot greyer. His family and neighbours won't get out of his face and off his lawn.

Walt's dragged into neighbourhood drama when a gang of hoodlums starts bullying the youngest of his new next-door neighbours — and that's where the Dirty Harry analogies come in.



The outcome of Gran Torino upends expectations, yet it makes perfect sense and turns the film into a parable for modern times. No tumbleweeds roll down Walt Kowalski's street, but this is every inch a western set on concrete plains.

The extras are as lean as Eastwood, the highlights being featurettes that celebrate the Gran Torino car and Clint's love of Detroit metal.

Woodstock

Director: Ryan Shiraki

THIS "40TH ANNIVERSARY Ultimate Collector's Edition," costs $80 list for the preferred Blu-ray box, more than three times the $24 tab to actually attend Woodstock Festival in 1969. That's inflation for you, man, and you could downshift to DVD for $65.

But it's a small price to pay for such artfully reconjured grooviness: a digitally upgraded director's cut, hours of documentary extras and amusing geekabilia: an iron-on Woodstock patch, a shimmering paper weight and reproductions of the admission ticket (you just crashed the gates, right?) plus handwritten love notes (no email or Twitter in '69, kids).

If you're old enough to remember Woodstock, you're also probably too old to read without bifocals the mice type of the mini LIFE magazine special edition, included in the set. Bummer.

Still, it's all about the peace and music, right? And you get more of it in the best home edition yet. Fire up the bong and clear your weekend.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE





GETTY IMAGES/KEVIN WINTER

Sugar Ray, seen in this 2006 file photo, returns with new album Music for Cougars this July.

Sugar Ray returns

Pop-rock outfit back in ring as indie act

Mark McGrath, the lead singer of Sugar Ray and former host of the celebrity news show Extra, has often employed an old political tactic for his career: Set expectations low so success seems all the sweeter.

> **"I know people aren't sitting on the edge of their seats waiting for a Sugar Ray record. But that wasn't the point."**
> Sugar Ray lead singer Mark McGrath

The self-deprecating attitude served him and his band well. He has joked about his looks, voice, penis and fleeting fame — one album was called 14:59, just short of the 15 minutes Andy Warhol famously described — while the band's steady stream of reggae-tinged mid-'90s radio hits sold more than 5 million albums, and made McGrath a star.

So when the band announced in April that it regrouped in a Los Angeles recording studio, made a new album (Music for Cougars) and was ready to head back out on the road for another turn in the spotlight, McGrath was quick to acknowledge that many would wonder why. "I know people aren't sitting on the edge of their seats waiting for a Sugar Ray record," he says. "But that wasn't the point."

Contrary to popular perception, Sugar Ray never broke up. The childhood friends from Newport Beach, Calif., moved from rap-punk to power-pop and from broke unknowns to platinum-sellers over the course of five albums on Atlantic.

But by 2003, the writing was on the wall for bands like Sugar Ray, and that year the group's In the Pursuit of Leisure album — an attempted reinvention that included several songs produced by the Neptunes — flopped. McGrath took the TV job, and the rest of the guys went back to the beach. They would reconvene every year for a few corporate gigs, state-fair-type concerts and an occasional soundtrack song, but Sugar Ray was on the back burner. Atlantic dropped the act in 2006.

When McGrath's contract with Extra was about to expire, he, the band and longtime manager Chip Quigley began plotting Sugar Ray's return. Jason Bernard, a producer and friend whose Pulse Studios encompasses a studio, publishing company and record label, was eager to cut a deal.

"We realized there are bands out there in the world that major labels were turning their heads on," says Bernard, who last year brought alternative rock band Filter out of retirement. "We can make world-class records for pennies on the dollar with our sweat equity."

The resulting Cougars marks a return to the formula that made 1997's Fly a radio staple. The first single, Boardwalk, is a sunny, unmistakably Sugar Ray song. Other cuts include the uptempo dance track She's Got The ... (Woo-Hoo), the midtempo romancer Love Is the Answer and the reggae-influenced remake of Eddie Hodges' (Girls Girls Girls Are) Made to Love featuring Collie Buddz.

"We were part of a business where you had a hit single and you sold 3 million records, but it's different now," Quigley says. "The real core of our business is the live arena, and for that you need songs on the radio. So we're really going to try and get the song on radio and go out there touring this summer and show folks we're still a great live band." REUTERS

DMX gets probation for jailhouse assault

MORE TIME An Arizona judge yesterday sentenced rapper DMX to probation for allegedly throwing a food tray at a detention officer inside a Phoenix jail.

The rapper, whose real name is Earl Simmons, will spend 18 months on supervised probation for the jailhouse altercation under the ruling by Judge Robert Gottsfield in Maricopa County Superior Court. He also must attend counselling.



Rapper DMX

Simmons pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated assault on May 22. Eight days earlier, he was released from the jail after serving 90 days on drug, theft and animal abuse charges.

In May 2008, the 38-year-old rapper was arrested on drug and animal cruelty charges after sheriff's deputies raided his home and found dog carcasses and malnourished pit bulls.

Simmons' attorney could not immediately be reached for comment.

REUTERS

Only two more Tolkien films: del Toro
There had been suggestions three films — two Hobbit adventures and a third to bridge the gap between that story and the Lord of the Rings films — would be created from the collaboration between Guillermo del Toro and Peter Jackson, but del Toro told MTV there will only be two films. TOTALFILMS.COM

Talented Mr. Barnes

Narnia star tries comedy in Easy Virtue

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

He may have played the title role in The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian, and he'll soon be starring as Dorian Gray, but actor Ben Barnes insists he's not building a movie career around classic literature.

"These stories stand the test of time. They're good stories and I always look at the script and character first before I look at the director or who else is in it," said the young actor during a recent phone interview.

"I mean, I'll do some modern things eventually but it just happens that these are the things in front of me that are exciting."

Easy Virtue hits theatres Friday

You can toss Easy Virtue onto that pile of exciting projects as well. Although the comedy (which hits theatres this Friday) is also an adaptation (it was based on Noel Coward's 1924 play), Barnes' latest movie takes a cheeky look at life in early 20th century England.

When young John Whittaker (Barnes) impetuously marries a sexy, free-spirited American (Jessica Biel), it horrifies his aristocratic family and turns his uptight mother (Kristin Scott Thomas) towards sabotage.

"It's very mischievous," said London-born Barnes. "We have a loud-mouthed, obnoxious Australian director (Stephan Elliot) who's kind of prodding us literally with his fingers on the set and (it's) poking fun at the British really — that's why I think its done so well in Europe, Australia and other countries where they love to hate us.

"And we have an American heroine as well so I've got big, big hopes for it (in North America)."

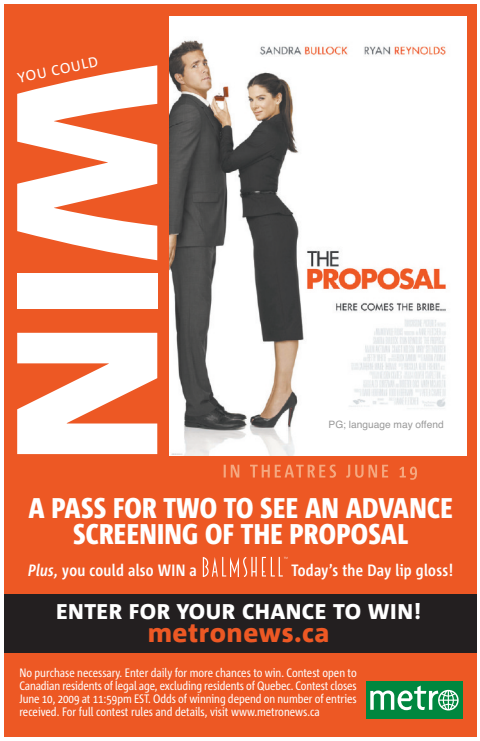
For audiences, one of the more fascinating aspects of Easy Virtue lies in the music. Not exactly a musical, the film is still loaded with great songs from the period. Elliot embraced the golden era of jazz even more by adapting such modern hits as Tom Jones' 1999 hit Sex Bomb to sound as if Cole Porter originally wrote it.

Finally, he had his actors sing in the film. "The singing was part of the story," said Barnes. "It was supposed to kind of get more annoying as you went through but actually my singing is OK so I think they wanted to make a bit of a thing out of it."

"The singing was part of the story ... My singing is OK so I think they wanted to make a bit of a thing out of it."
Ben Barnes on Easy Virtue



Ben Barnes plays a young British man who marries Jessica Biel's character in the comedy Easy Virtue.



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More Saw on the way

Tobin Bell, Saw's now deceased Jigsaw, has confirmed that the trap-happy franchise will continue until at least part eight, as long as the audience remains faithful. "I look forward to filling out the other pieces of the puzzle," he says on horror site Bloody Disgusting. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Back in Black

Lautner bites into New Moon role

TALIA SOGHOMONIAN
Metro World News

For a while, there were rumours the Twilight character of Jacob Black would be recast for New Moon, but actor Taylor Lautner is back in the role. It's a juicier one this time, with more for the actor to get his teeth into. Not only does his relationship with Bella — played by Kristen Stewart — develop, but Lautner also went through an impressive physical transformation.

Q How's it back being on set?

A It's good. I'm really excited to be back with the whole team again and our new director, Chris Weitz. It's been a lot of fun so far and the movie's looking great, so I couldn't ask for more.

Q And you have a huge role this time.

A It's a little bit bigger, yeah! It's exciting because I'm excited to bring alive the new Jacob Black for the fans.

Q You look like an '80s rock star with your long hair.

A Sometimes I look in the mirror and I don't recognize myself. It's an actual wig. It's glued to my head in the front and it gets itchy sometimes. You can see the lace if you look close, but it doesn't come across on camera. It gives me a totally different look. I don't even look like myself.

Q The biggest change is in your body ... you gained 30 pounds of muscle for this role.

A I did, yeah. When I was filming Twilight, I knew where my character was going in the rest of the series, so obviously I knew I had some work ahead of me! So as soon as I stopped filming Twilight, I got back home, hit the gym and worked very, very hard, and here I am filming New Moon, 30 pounds heavier.

Q And doing your own stunts.

A So far. Let's not jinx it, but basically you get an evaluation at the beginning of filming. They took me to a gymnasium to see what I could do. They put me on some dirt bikes to see how well I can do. I think they're just figuring out how much they're actually going to allow me to do. So far, I've been able to do everything, so I'm hoping that doesn't change too much cause the stunts are a lot of fun.

Q Let's get to your character, Jacob. He is actually in love with Bella...

A Jacob's love for Bella is really intense. He will always be there for Bella, no matter what. Even if she's with another guy ... or a vampire!

Q How did you prepare for your role?

A I did a lot of study for the first film. Before I even started filming Twilight, I studied up on all of the Quileute tribes and legends and myths and everything about them. And when we got up to Portland, Ore., to film, I was able to meet with about 10 Quileute tribal members. I got to talk to them and what I really learned is that they're not much different than me, and that was very unexpected.

Q Do you ever discuss Jacob with (Twilight series author) Stephenie Meyer?

A It's really cool because she comes up here every once in a while for her favorite scenes. At the beginning of filming, she gives a list of her favorite scenes that she wants to be up here for. You got the best person in the world to ask for advice. So if you have a question, you can just walk on over and ask her.

Q What's your most exciting scene in New Moon?

A It's so hard to choose. Like I said, I really enjoy the stunts so I had a lot of fun doing the dirt bike sequences. I got to hop on the bike and go really fast and come to a skidding stop. It's really cool. And I also like a lot of the more serious scenes, the pivotal scenes in the movie, like Jacob and Bella's breakup scene, which is the first time Bella sees Jacob after he has transformed into a wolf. And it's really emotional. I felt bad for Jacob just reading the books, but now that I'm actually living this character, I feel so bad for the guy! It's really sad.



Taylor Lautner plays Jacob Black in Twilight sequel New Moon, currently in production.

More New Moon

- For more on Metro's interview with Taylor Lautner, visit metronews.ca/entertainment
- Pick up tomorrow's issue of Metro for an interview with New Moon director Chris Weitz.



Heroes star Oka lands film deal

PROJECT DreamWorks has picked up The Defenders, a family adventure project conceived by Heroes actor Masi Oka.

D.J. Caruso is in negotiations to direct, and Gary Whitta is on board to write the script. to be produced by Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci.

The story centres on a group of mostly teenagers from around the world who are involved in a multiplayer video game, each unaware of who the others are behind the cover of their consoles and avatars. They are forced to come together for a real adventure, becoming inadvertent heroes in the process.

DreamWorks will develop a video game as well as the feature. REUTERS

Gyllenhaal, Hathaway in Love

FILM Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway, who played a doomed husband and wife in Brokeback Mountain, are in negotiations to reunite for Love and Other Drugs.

Ed Zwick (Defiance) is directing the Fox 2000/New Regency project (formerly titled Pharma), which Charles Randolph (The Interpreter) adapted from Jamie Reidy's nonfiction book Hard Sell: The Evolution of a Viagra Salesman.

Reidy was a drug rep for Pfizer in the late 1990s whose memoir shone a light on the practices of the pharmaceutical industry. Gyllenhaal will play the salesman, who begins a relationship with a woman who has Parkinson's disease (Hathaway) while on one of his sales calls. Their love story plays out in the political and social context of the time.





Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway, who co-starred in Brokeback Mountain, will reunite for Love and Other Drugs.

Hathaway has Alice in Wonderland moving toward a March release and Get Smart 2 scheduled to film in May, with co-star Steve Carell working on the script. REUTERS

Teen chef getting TV show
Fourteen-year-old chef Greg Grossman has signed a deal to develop and star in his own reality TV show. Grossman and New York-based Picture This Television (Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List) are teaming to land the professional teen chef a series. REUTERS

Billy Elliot tops Tony Awards

Billy Elliot The Musical swept the top U.S. theater honours Sunday, winning 10 Tony Awards for a Broadway season that defied a recession with record ticket sales.

Billy Elliot is based on Oscar-nominated director Stephen Daldry's 2000 film about a ballet-dancing schoolboy in a mining town in northern England. Elton John, who suggested the film be adapted for theater, wrote the music for the production.

"We came here at a hard time economically, you opened your wallets and your hearts to us and we love you for it," said John, one of Britain's best-known musicians, whose hit songs include Candle in the Wind and Rocket Man.

Billy Elliot was named best musical, and the three teenage actors who play the title role — Canadian David Alvarez, Trent Kowalik and Kiril Kulish — were all named best actor in a musical, the first time three actors have shared the award.

"We want to say to all the kids out there who might want to dance, never give up," Kulish said.

Daldry, who won best musical director, said the boys were "three great gifts of Broadway" and that he was "blessed in the past 10 years of my life to be working on Billy Elliot.' The show has also played in Britain and Australia.


GETTY IMAGES

Canadian David Alvarez, left, Kiril Kulish and Trent Kowalik pose with the award for best performance by a leading actor in a musical for Billy Elliot at the 63rd Annual Tony Awards Sunday.

Gregory Jbara won best featured actor in a musical for his role as Billy's father and the show also won best book of a musical and scenic, lighting, sound and choreography awards. It tied with Next to Normal for best orchestration.

Alice Ripley was named best actress in a musical for her role as a bipolar suburban housewife in Next to Normal, which also picked up best original score, beating nominees including Elton John and Lee Hall for Billy Elliot and Dolly Parton for 9 to 5: The Musical.

Billy Elliot had matched the record number of Tony Award nominations set by The Producers in 2001, picking up 15 nods. The Producers went on to win a record 12 awards.

"We came here at a hard time economically, you opened your wallets and your hearts to us and we love you for it." Elton John

Hair, the new production of the groundbreaking 1960s musical, won the Tony for best revival of a musical.

God of Carnage — with an all-star cast of Sopranos star James Gandolfini, Marcia Gay Harden, Hope Davis and Jeff Daniels — picked up the most awards for a play, winning best play, director of a play, and best actress for Harden.

God of Carnage director Matthew Warchus beat himself — he was also nominated for best director for The Norman Conquests, a trilogy of comedies that came to Broadway from a sold-out run in London, which won the Tony best play revival. REUTERS

In brief

MUSIC Composer and musician A.R. Rahman, who picked up two Oscars for Slumdog Millionaire, is working on his first score for an American film.
Rahman will compose the score for the comedy Couples Retreat. The movie stars Vince Vaughn, Jason Bateman, Jon Favreau, Malin Akerman and Kristen Bell. It's based on a story idea of Vaughn's about four couples who embark on a journey to a tropical island resort.

CASTING The Hollywood-centric HBO comedy Entourage has signed Matt Letscher, William Fichtner and Scott Caan for multi-episode guest roles on the series' upcoming sixth season. REUETRS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle
For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
6/9/09 primetime	31	31	31 ABC	News (N)	ABC Wld News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Jimmy Kimmel	NBA Count	NBA Basketball: Finals -- Lakers at Magic		
	7	7	7 ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Canada's Next Top Model		Law & Order: SVU		Cupid
	11	11	11 CBC	CBC News Special The 2009 Nova Scotia election. (Live)				NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup Final Game 6 -- Red Wings at Penguins				
	2	2	2 CBC-F	Soirée des élections: Nouvelle-Écosse				Beautés désespérées (SC)		Bons baisers de France (SC)		Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32 CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	NCIS "Dagger" (HDTV)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		48 Hr. Mystery
	69	69	69 CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Sucré-salé	Qui perd gagne (SC)		Fort Boyard (SC)		Nos étés "Eté 1930" (SC)		TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6 CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Mental (HDTV PA) (N)		NCIS "Dagger" (HDTV)		Durham County		News (N)
	9	9	9 CJCH	Nova Scotia Election 2009 (N)						The Mentalist (HDTV)		News (N)
	10	10	10 ELTV	(6) EastLink Television				Podium TV		EastLink Television		
	36	36	36 FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two-Half Men	House "Lucky Thirteen"		Mental (HDTV PA) (N)		Fox First
	12	12	12 NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup Final Game 6 -- Red Wings at Penguins				
	29	29	29 NW	Nova Scotia Votes 2009 Polls. (Live)						CBC News: The National		National
	4	4	4 PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Greater Boston	La Plaza-Maria	Out From the Shadows		Frontline		Frontline
	35	35	35 PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Dennis DeYoung: The Music of Styx			Charge of Your Money	
	68	68	68 TQS	Rire et délire	Chemin du golf	Catherine (SC)	Suite 309	Lipstick Jungle (SC)		Pushing Daisies (SC)		Piégé Zézé
news	23	96	96 BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Business News	Squeeze Play		Market Call
	18	18	18 CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
sports	54	54	54 GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	Lessons	Inside PGA	The Approach	Top 10	Top 10 (N)	Top 10 (HDTV)	Top 10 (HDTV)
	52	52	52 RSE	Hockey Central	Sportsnet Con.	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox. From Fenway Park in Boston.						MLB Baseball
	55	55	55 SCOR	HSR		Cabby Unlimit	Score Update	Poker Challenge		World Series of Poker: Europe		Score Tonight
	45	45	45 SPD	Unique Whips		Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Drag Race	Drag Race	Super Bikes!
	53	53	53 TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey	Interruption	NBA Pregame	NBA Count	NBA Basketball: Finals -- Lakers at Magic		
family	43	43	43 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School
	44	44	44 TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken
	26	26	26 TREE	Wonder Pets	Big & Small	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch
	27	27	27 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Survive This	Survive This	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach
cable variety	16	16	16 A&E	CSI: Miami "Speed Kills"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
	70	70	70 APTN	News (N)		Wings-Canada	Tears	Chiefs-Champ	Cashing In	Fish Out	New Canoe	The Rez
	50	50	50 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live "Top 10 Countdown"				Scary Movie ★★★ (2000, Comedy) Shawn Wayans.				College Hill
	37	37	37 BRVO	Street Legal		Lord of the Rings Symphony		Live at the Rehearsal Hall		Neil Young: Heart of Gold ★★★ (2006)		
	25	25	25 CMT	Cross Canada Countdown				Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith
	49	49	49 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box
	153	153	153 COURT	Killer Next Door		World's Wildest Police Videos		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Surviving-Impact		Police Videos
	38	38	38 DISC	Destroyed	Destroyed	Daily Planet (N)		How It's Made	How It's Made	Destroyed	One Way Out	Deadliest
	34	48	48 HGTV	Holmes-Homes	Holmes-Homes	House Hunters	Property Virgin	HGTV's Top 10	Dirty Business	SarahCottage	Design Inc.	House Hunters
	46	46	46 HIST	Zero Hour		NCIS "Mind Games"		Lost Worlds		Zero Hour		NCIS
	17	17	17 MM	Greek Prohibition party.		One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Greek Prohibition party.		Black Peas
	19	19	19 MMM	mmtop10.ca		I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.		I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.		The Daily Fix		Entourage
	201	201	201 M1	(7:15) The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian ★★★ (2008, Fantasy)						The Incredible Hulk ★★★ (2008, Action)		
	48	23	23 OLN	The Amazing Race 3		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures "Iceland"		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter
	51	51	51 PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at Atlanta Braves. (HDTV) From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)						Home Videos
	206	206	206 PIX	(6:15) What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?			The Big Slice ★★ (1990, Comedy)			Trainspotting ★★★ (1996, Drama)		
	67	67	67 RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct
	39	39	39 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		Painkiller Jane		XIII (2009, Suspense) Val Kilmer.		
	40	40	40 SLICE	So Chic	Skin Deep	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Rich Poor
	47	47	47 SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Torchwood "Fragments"		Watchmen
	14	14	14 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Unleashed		Jesse James
	57	98	98 STAR	etalk	Hollywood	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Look-A-Like	Look-A-Like	Tonight Show
	21	21	21 TLC	What Not to Wear		Say Yes-Dress	Cake Boss	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	18 Kids-Count	18 Kids-Count	Little Couple
	56	34	34 TROP	North of 60		Power Play		Tube Tales	Tube Tales	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy
	20	20	20 TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Zoom animal		Secrets d'histoire				Plage
	28	28	28 V	Doc "Stroke of Luck"		Murder, She Wrote		Watchtower	On the Buses	Quantum Leap		The Lost Gods
	60	97	97 VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Missing		The Closer		Encounters
	22	22	22 W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	How Clean	Friends	Remedy Me	Keep Real	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Good Naked
	251	251	251 WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	90210 (HDTV)		Hitched or Ditched (N)		WGN News

critics'corner

Neil Young: Heart of Gold
If you're a Neil Young fan, rock on! Otherwise, this rockumentary might not be your cup of tea. Director Jonathan Demme follows Mr. Young as he performs at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn., as well as getting people's takes on the musician. Those cropping up on camera include Emmylou Harris, Anthony Crawford and Diana DeWitt. 10 PM on BRAVO



Lord of the Rings Symphony
Canadian composer Howard Shore, who won three Oscars for his work on Peter Jackson's epic screen adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy "The Lord of the Rings," presents a six-movement orchestral piece. Performed by more than 200 musicians and singers, the music is accompanied by vibrant projections of set designers' illustrations created for the film trilogy. 8 PM on BRAVO

Style by Jury
Lots of youngsters dream of running away to join the circus. In this new episode, you'll meet someone who did leave home as a teen to follow the big top. Now a single mom, she's found that the circus life has taken a toll on her appearance. Enter host Bruce Turner and his team of experts to help her look and feel beautiful again. 10:30 PM on W

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Neil's new roles

Fresh from his stint as host of The Tonys, Neil Patrick Harris nabbed starring roles in two upcoming flicks. He will take a lead role in Josh Shelov's The Best And The Brightest and in Beastly, the modern-day update of Beauty and The Beast. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay lashes out at doctor

SMACKDOWN Lindsay Lohan has blasted a celebrity doctor for claiming she is not sober, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Dr. Drew Pinsky — who hosts the TV show Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew — claimed in an interview Lohan will not resolve her personal issues until she hurts herself, prompting the actress to question his ethics.

She wrote on Twitter: "I thought REAL doctors talked to patients in offices behind closed doors. Am I wrong? Hmmmmm. I think NOT. Yay! (sic)"



Pinsky hinted Lohan — who has completed three stints in rehab and pleaded guilty to cocaine use and no contest to driving under the influence in 2007 — is still abusing substances, adding she has yet to "embrace" cleaning up her life.

He told Parade magazine: "I'm convinced that she'll get sober one day. But I'm afraid that between now and then, she may get a nearly mortal wound of some type. I'm really convinced that something horrible is going to have to happen to her before she really gets over it and embraces sobriety."

This is not the first time Pinsky has enraged a celebrity. Last year, he was forced to apologize to Tom Cruise when he publicly declared the actor must have emotional problems to be involved in the Scientology religion.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Demi's creepy dolls

SECRET OBSESSION Ashton Kutcher is scared of his wife Demi Moore's doll collection, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The star says the actress' hoard of 3,000 life-like figurines disturbs him and he is begging her to open a museum so he can get them out of their home.

Writing on Twitter, Ashton said: "Spent the day going through wifey's insane doll collection — 3,000 contemporary art dolls all staring at you. I'm gonna have nightmares.



He then added some pictures of the creepy collection and put captions underneath the photos, with one saying: "Hello Ashton, I'm watching you."

"I'm trying to convince the wife to open a doll museum. She also has thousands of Barbies and G.I. Joes."

Moore started collecting them when she was married to Bruce Willis and recently insured the collection for $2 million US.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Say no to breast implants: Denise

YOUTHFUL REGRETS After having three surgeries since the age of 19 to enhance her breasts, Denise Richards can safely say she doesn't recommend it.

"I was 19, and my roommate had the best boobs ever, and she had just had hers done," Richards told Howard Stern on his satellite radio show. "I was as flat as a board, and I thought, 'Whoa, you can just buy them,' and stupidly had them done."

She followed that with another enlargement and then a reduction. "I was young and should have researched better. You know, it was a big mistake. Young girls, don't do it!"



GETTY IMAGES

METRO WORLD NEWS

Recession hits Jon and Kate?

REAL ESTATE WOES Are Jon and Kate Gosselin victims of the nation's poor housing market? According to records, their Cape Cod-style home in Elizabethtown, Pa., has been on the market for 89 days — and counting — people.com reports.

The price for the five-bedroom 2½-bath house has stayed constant at $325,000 US. (They paid $280,000 for it in 2006.)

Though the home is in a family-friendly area, it wasn't always a peaceful place for the family of 10: Former neighbours say that fans often drove by the Gosselins' house to gawk.

"Fans were dangerous, fans were always coming right up to their house," says Marilyn Soutner, 49, who lived next door to the Gosselin home. "I'd stand outside with my phone staring at the door like I was calling the police ... It was making it a very, very dangerous neighbourhood. You don't know who (was) in those cars."



Then one day, "Someone flattened the tires to their black van, and that night they were gone," adds Soutner.

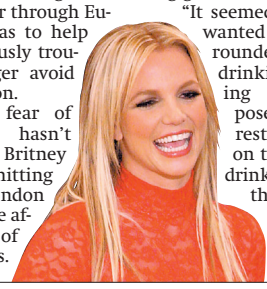
Last fall, the Gosselins moved into a $1.1-million, 6,000-square-foot home in Wernersville, Pa. The 24-acre property is fenced in and has a metal gate at the end of the driveway, a half-mile from the front door. Still, that hasn't stopped paparazzi from hanging out down the road waiting for a glimpse of the family.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Britney's booze ban

PROHIBITION Britney Spears' dad has reportedly banned alcohol backstage on her latest tour through Europe, so as to help the famously troubled singer avoid temptation.

But a fear of booze hasn't stopped Britney from hitting the London club scene after one of her shows.



"Britney went to Maddox nightclub after her O2 gig," a source tells the Sun. "It seemed odd that she wanted to be surrounded by people drinking, considering she had imposed such strict restrictions while on tour. She didn't drink and was only there for 45 minutes, though."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Brangie to marry this summer?

FINALLY It looks like all the rumours of trouble between Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have convinced the pair to finally tie the knot, according to the Daily Mirror.



"Usually it's Brad who wants to talk marriage. But this time it was Angie," a source tells the newspaper. "An aide sent them all the press clippings about their 'relationship problems' and Angelina said it was probably best if they married to put an end to the stories. Brad's face lit up — he was thrilled."

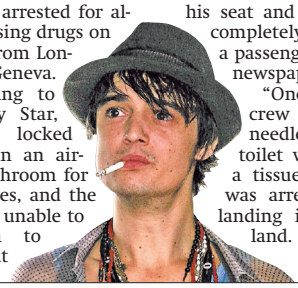
According to sources, the wedding could take place by the end of the summer, once their current filming obligations are taken care of.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Pete's 'high'-flying?

BAD BOY Pete Doherty seems to be up to his old tricks. The troubled musician was arrested for allegedly using drugs on a flight from London to Geneva.

According to the Daily Star, Doherty locked himself in an airplane bathroom for 30 minutes, and the crew was unable to get him to come out until just before the plane landed.



"Pete was taken back to his seat and he looked completely out of it," a passenger tells the newspaper.

"One of the crew took the needle out of the toilet wrapped in a tissue." Doherty was arrested upon landing in Switzerland.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Lady Gaga and 'Speedy' still on

TROPICAL LOVE Rumours of Lady Gaga's split with her boyfriend are false after the pair was spotted kissing on a beach during a Hawaiian vacation last week, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer was rumoured have ended her relationship with a 23-year-old mystery man, named only as Speedy, whom Lady Gaga reportedly met on the set for her new video Love Game.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

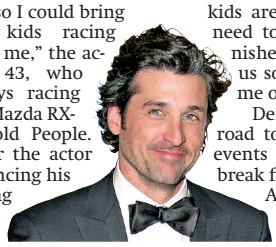
Patrick a family man first

PRIORITIES If Patrick Dempsey has his way, he'll add bus driver to his resumé, people.com reports.

"I'd love to have a nice bus so I could bring my kids racing with me," the actor, 43, who enjoys racing his Mazda RX-8, told People.

For the actor balancing his racing with his role as a family man is a balancing act.

"I would be so happy if they were with me when I race," says Dempsey. "The kids are very young, so I need to find a great furnished vehicle for all of us so they can be with me on the track."



Dempsey is on the road to race at different events on his summer break from filming Grey's Anatomy.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Madonna tries to adopt again?

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED Since Madonna's chances of adopting another child from Malawi aren't looking too good, the singer has reportedly set her sights on Nigeria instead.

"She's looking at adoption centers in Nigeria and has got another female friend to make an initial approach to test the waters," a source tells the News of the World.



Meanwhile, dating 22-year-old Jesus Luz may have had something to do with her last bid failing. "She was distraught when her adoption failed in Malawi," the source says.

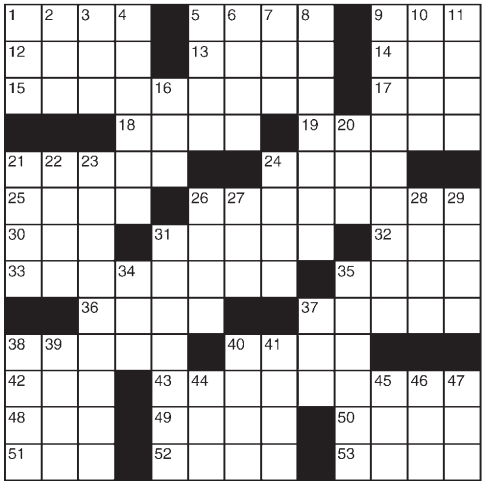
"She blamed the fact that her relationship with Jesus made her look like she was going through some mid-life crisis."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Take Five



Crossword across

1 Out of the storm
5 "Little Women" woman
9 Silent
12 Lion's share
13 Turkish title
14 "SNL" alum Gasteyer
15 Janitor's gadget
17 Feminine side
18 Charged bits
19 Impressively high
21 "Saturday Night Fever" venue
24 Repast
25 Some deer
26 Online talk site
30 $ dispenser
31 Actress Jessica et al.
32 Path
33 Post-WW II birthrate increase
35 Nuisance
36 After all?
37 Country star Brooks
38 Memorable mission
40 "— she blows!"
42 Crib
43 truTV's "Open Court" anchor
48 Fond du —, Wis.
49 Lab vessel
50 Met melody
51 Before
52 Hibernia
53 Shrill bark

Crossword down

1 Pump up the volume
2 Dobbs of CNN
3 Curvy character
4 Morals
5 Farm building
6 Hollywood clashers
7 Yet, in verse
8 Villages
9 Carrier of 1620
10 One
11 Much more than one
16 Greet the villain
20 Rowing need
21 Colourless
22 Teeny bit
23 Modicum
24 Sir counterpart
26 Coagulate
27 Showtime rival
28 Tobacco oven
29 Legend
31 Exculpate
34 Sweet potato
35 Bet the previous winnings
37 Chatter away
38 Competent
39 Storyteller
40 Despot
41 Robust
44 Grandson, maybe
45 Raw rock
46 Lubricant
47 Chart

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7				2		3		
1					4	7		6
			5			8		
		1	6		3	9		2
2		8	4		7	1		
		4			5			
8		5	3					1
		6		9				7

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	2	6	4	7	3	9	5	1
7	1	5	8	6	9	4	3	2
9	4	3	2	1	5	6	7	8
5	3	2	9	8	6	7	1	4
4	8	7	5	2	1	3	6	9
1	6	9	3	4	7	2	8	5
6	5	8	7	9	2	1	4	3
2	7	4	1	3	8	5	9	6
3	9	1	6	5	4	8	2	7

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Oriental Lamb Medallions

INGREDIENTS:

1/2 in. (1 cm) piece fresh ginger
1/4 lb (125 g) broccoli florets
1/4 lb (125 g) leeks
1 bunch of watercress
1/4 lb (125 g) snow peas
1/4 lb (125 g) baby corn
1 lb (450g) lamb fillet, or 8 noisettes of lamb
1–2 (15–25 ml) tbsp olive oil
Salt and black pepper
2 tbsp (25 ml) peanut oil
3 tbsp (45 ml) lamb or chicken stock
1–2 tbsp (15–25 ml) light soy sauce

METHOD:

1. Peel and chop ginger and set aside. Rinse vegetables. Cut broccoli into slices and leek into matchstick-thin strips. Chop watercress, top and tail snow peas, leave baby corn whole. Set all aside.
2. If using lamb fillet, cut into eight 1 in. (2.5 cm) thick medallions. Brush medallions, or noisettes, with olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
3. Warm frying pan over moderate heat, add lamb and dry-fry 2 minutes, or until browned underneath. Turn and fry for 3–4 minutes until cooked but slightly pink in the centre. Cover pan and keep warm.
4. Meanwhile, heat peanut oil in wok or large frying pan. Add ginger and vegetables and stir-fry 3–4 minutes, until just tender.
5. Add stock and soy sauce to vegetables and season to taste, then cover and cook 2 minutes, stirring occasionally.
6. Lay two lamb medallions on each plate and spoon vegetables over and alongside.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Oh no, not another upheaval. What happens next may seem like bad news but you will see that this particular cloud has a magnificent silver lining.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You will find yourself at odds with the status quo today and that's no bad thing. Question the accepted wisdom. You're making change happen.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
The Sun in your sign won't let you keep a low profile, so quit trying to hide. Stand up where you can be seen and speak out about what you believe.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
If you need a break — and you do — start making plans now. There's cosmic activity in the area of your chart that governs rest and relaxation.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Don't worry if others think you are being unsociable. There are times when you want nothing more than to be left alone with your thoughts.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
With Mercury, your ruler and planet of communication, strong in your chart today you will find it easy to put your thoughts into words.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Someone seems determined to poke their nose into your affairs — and you must be just as determined not to let them know what you are up to.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Any doubts you may have about a creative activity of some kind will be gone by the end of the day. Anything is possible for you now.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
If you have been hitting the town with your friends these past few days, you should now spend some quality time with your nearest and dearest.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Obviously you need to do something to remind those around you that you are not the sort who can be taken for granted. Give it some thought.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Today's Mercury-Uranus link-up will help you dream up new ways to make money but Neptune, planet of illusion, is advising caution. Get advice first.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you let your intuition guide you today you will have a lot of fun and make some great new friends as well.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Your and my baking ingredient (1)
2. Baptism or communion terror (1)
3. Hackneyed verbal dispute (1)
4. Diminishes the size of a wildcat (1)
5. Heavy drinker's painting tools (2)
6. Actor Newman's illegible writings (1)
7. Thankfulness stance or personal view (3)

ANSWERS
1. OUR FLOUR 2. RITE FRIGHT 3. TIRTE FIGHT 4. SHRINKS LYNX 5. LESHS BRUSHES 6. PALLS SCRAWLS 7. GRATITUDE ATTITUDE

6-9-09

This day in history

JUNE 9, 1534: Jacques Cartier is the first European to discover the Saint Lawrence River.
JUNE 9, 1856: Five hundred Mormons leave Iowa City, Iowa and head west for Salt Lake City carrying all their possessions in two-wheeled handcarts.
JUNE 9, 1873: Alexandra Palace burnt down, after being open for only 16 days.
JUNE 9, 1968: United States President Lyndon B. Johnson declares a national day of mourning following the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

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Punta Cana via Toronto
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$859
Taxes & fees: $324

Liberia, Costa Rica via Toronto
Occidental Grand Papagayo • 4 1/2 ★
All-Inclusive • Deluxe rm.
June 13 & 20 • 1 wk.
$849
Taxes & fees: $193

Cancun / Riviera Maya via Montreal
Gran Bahia Principe Tulum • 5★
All-Inclusive • Standard rm.
Aug. 8, 9, 15 & 16 • 1 wk.
$899
Taxes & fees: $279

Varadero via Montreal
Sirenis La Salina Varadero • 4★
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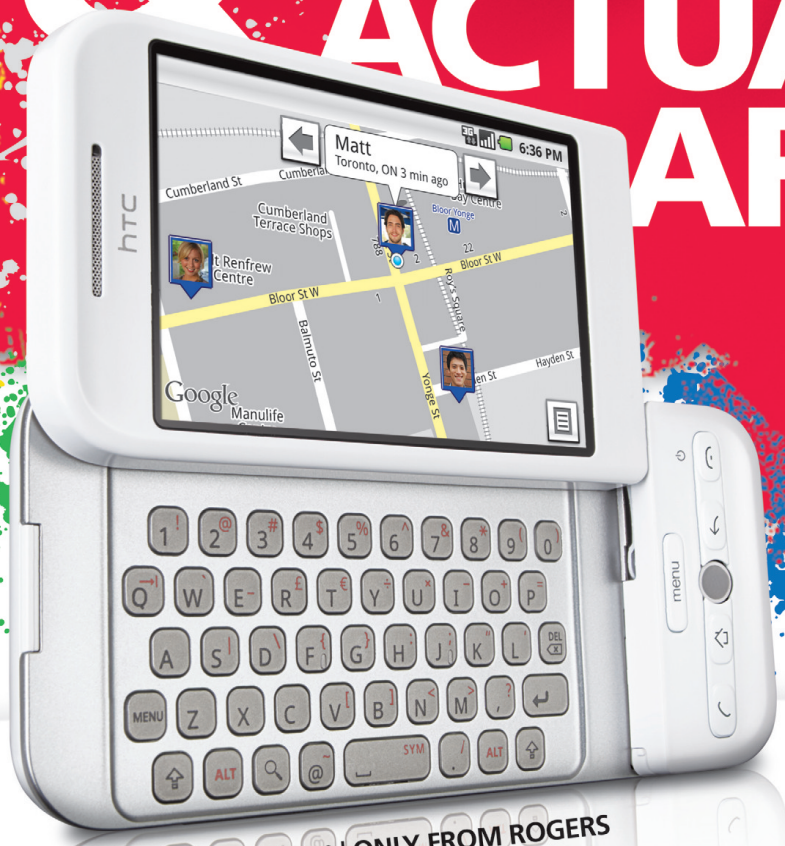
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